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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Contacts Arab Governments on Deportation *[WAKH]* 2
Al-Wazir Says Situation To 'Explode' 31 Dec *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
PLO's 'Arafat Requests 'Urgent' PRC Assistance *[WAKH]* 2
PLO Executive Committee Meetings Continue *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
PLO Executive Committee Issues 'Appeal' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 2
PFLP's Habash on Palestinian 'Uprising' *[Voice of the Mountain]* 3
DFLP Official Asks for Red Cross Doctors *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PLO Statement on Israeli 'Brutal Aggressions' *[Sanaa VOP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Goukouni Presence in Libya Linked to Offensive *[AFP]* 5
Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet in January *[MENA]* 5
Commentary Views Libyan Attitude Toward OAU 5

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Gulf, Arab Issues, Peace *[AL-JUMHIRIYAH 23 Dec]* 6
Austrian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit 8
MENA Interview Before Visit 8
Arrives 26 Dec 8
Official Talks Open 9
Views Talks With Minister 9
Dinner Speeches Exchanged 9
Received by Mubarak 9
Comments on Cooperation 10
Meets Defense Minister 10
Received by Prime Minister 10
Cited on Talks, Debts 10
Concludes Official Visit 11
Mubarak Accepts Official Kuwaiti Invitation 11
'Abd al-Majid Assesses Arab Relations 11
Ghali Confers With Southern Sudanese Official 11
Butrus Ghali Leaves on African Tour 28 Dec 12
PLO's Jamal al-Surani Arrives in Cairo 12
Iran Conveys Proposals for Returning POW's *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 24 Dec]* 12
Mosad Agents Among U.S. Company Employees *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 21 Dec]* 12
Paper Details 'Ayn Shams University Protest *[AL-AKHBAR 22 Dec]* 13
Need for Arab Summit To Support Uprising 13
Al-Qadhdhafi's Violation Claims Questioned *[AL-AKHBAR 20 Dec]* 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on World Issues *[BBC]* 14
Al-Qadhdhafi Appeals to UN for Palestinians 14
Sends Letters to Groups 15
Memo Urges Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting 15
Sources Say 'Alternative' Summit Postponed *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Leaders 15
PLO's Al-Wazir Departs 15
DFLP Leader Leaves 16
Abu Musa Holds Tripoli Press Conference 16
Velayati Speaks to JANA Upon Departure *[Tehran]* 16
Iranian Envoy, Foreign Liaison Secretary Meet *[IRNA]* 17

Tunisia

Restoration of Ties With Libya Announced 17
Foreign Minister Meets Libya's Al-'Ubaydi 17

Western Sahara

Albanian Memo Announces Recognition of SDAR *[APS]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Eighth GCC Summit in Riyadh 18
Al-Faysal News Conference *[SPA]* 18
Third Session Ends *[SPA]* 21
Al-Faysal Statement on Session *[SPA]* 21
Fourth Session Ends *[SPA]* 22
Foreign Ministers Meet *[SPA]* 22
Final Session Previewed *[SPA]* 22
King Fahd Addresses Summit *[Riyadh]* 22
Saudi-Iranian Contacts Alleged *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 28 Dec]* 22
Allegations Denied *[SPA]* 23
Jordan's Husayn Phones Fahd *[SPA]* 24
Report on Aid to Iran Denied *[SPA]* 24

Bahrain

Muslim Palestinian Solidarity March Blocked *[Tehran]* 24

PDRY

Presidium Upholds Death Sentences for 11 24
Commuted Sentences Urged *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Dec]* 26
YSP Political Bureau Nominations Announced 26

IRAQ

Ramadan Meets Jordan's Transportation Minister 27
Sudanese Interior Minister Departs 24 Dec 27
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 27
Shelling of Boat Denied 27
Communique No 2,967 27

ISRAEL

Military Maneuvers in Golan, Eastern Galilee *[Beirut]* 28
Rabin Confirms 'About 900' Arrested in Riots 28
20 More Reported Detained 28
Military Court Tries Detainees for Rioting 28
Army Judge Comments on Trials 28
Palestinian Notables Meet With Foreign Consuls *[AL-QUDS 23 Dec]* 29
Arabs Fired Following Solidarity Strike 29
Peace Day Leaders Call Police 'Provocative' 29
IDF To Launch Special Anti-Riot Training 30
Rabin Views Proposed 'Moratorium on Violence' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Dec]* 30
Deportations To Be Used 'Whenever Necessary' 30
Shomron Sees 'Good Chance' for Calm Fatah Day 31
AL-FAJR Calls for End to 'Iron Fist' Policy *[24 Dec]* 31
Egypt To Give Medical Aid to West Bank, Gaza *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Dec]* 32
'Anti-Semitic' Press Item Causes 'Shock' *[HADASHOT 28 Dec]* 32
Egypt's Ghali on Effect of Riots on Relations 32
Egypt's Al-Baz Interviewed; Visit Possible *[HADASHOT 24 Dec]* 34
Soviet Mideast Conference Stand 'Hardened' *[HADASHOT 29 Dec]* 34
Shamir Announces Intention To Run in Elections *[HADASHOT 25 Dec]* 34

JORDAN

Al-Rifa'i on Visit to Moscow, 'Uprising' *[AL-RA'Y 25 Dec]* 35
Al-Rifa'i Reportedly Meets Lebanon's Junblatt *[QNA]* 35
USSR Reportedly Offers MIG-29 Aircraft *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 27 Dec]* 35
Dudin on Response to Israeli Deportations *[JORDAN TIMES 27 Dec]* 35
King's IZVESTIYA Interview, USSR Visit Viewed *[AL-RA'Y 28 Dec]* 36

LEBANON

Abu Nidal Group States Intent To Free 2 Girls *[AFP]* 37
Further on Fadlallah Appeal To Free Hostages *[AL-SAFIR 28 Dec]* 37
New Armored Israeli Force Deployed in South 37
Deployments Detailed 37
Liberation Battalion Leader Identified *[RFL]* 38

SYRIA

Khaddam Reportedly Sends Message to PLO *[WAKH]* 39
Al-Shar' Returns From Saudi Arabia 27 Dec 39
USSR's Brutents Arrives in Damascus 28 Dec 39
Replacement of Air Force Colonel Examined *[London THE GUARDIAN 23 Dec]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Commentary on 'Foreign Aggression' 40
Mujahidin Reject Claims Khowst Seige Broken *[IRNA]* 41
Mujahidin Leader Calls for Talks With Soviets *[IRNA]* 42
Weapons Depot Discovered in Laghman Province 42
Calm Restored to 728 Villages in Ghazni 42
'Extremist' Group Crushed, Convoy Seized 42
Keshtmand Receives Soviet Youth Delegation 43
Islamic Leader Sayaf on U.S., Pakistani Roles *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 21 Dec]* 43

Bangladesh

Jatiya Calls for Pullout From Afghanistan 44
Ershad Addresses Party on Elections, Opposition 44
Prime Minister Urges Opposition To Shun Violence 45
Planning Minister Announces Jobs for Tribals 45
Opposition To Continue Current Movement 45
Various Opposition Parties Issue Demands 45

India

Iranian Minister Discusses Trade With Tiwari 46
Industrial Agreements Signed 46
Reconstruction Aid for Iran 46
Murder of Sri Lankan Official Condemned 47
7 Officers Held Hostage in Andra Pradesh 47
Naxalite Prisoners Released 47
Clashes Between Gurkha Front, Police Continue 47
GNLF 'Activist' Killed 47
'Activists' Attack Police Post 47
6 Killed, 4 Injured by Extremists in Tripura 48
Strikes Called in Protest 48
Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab Districts 48
'Terrorists' Kill CPI-M Activist 48
7 'Terrorists' Arrested 48
Nuclear Scientist Criticizes U.S. Attitude 48
U.S. Aid to Pakistan Called 'Myopic' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 7 Dec]* 48
Pakistan Reportedly 'Stealing' Nuclear Secrets 49
Committee To Review Delhi Administration 49

Iran

Musavi Addresses Majlis on Budget, Gulf War 49
Death of Member of Bombing Group Announced 56
Iraqi Spy Hanged in Tehran 28 Dec 57
Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives With Al-Asad Message 57
Montazeri Receives Palestinian Scholar 57
Velayati Comments on Visit to Libya 57
Velayati Views Events After Amman Conference 58
Mohtashemi, IRGC Head on Palestine 'Uprising' 58
Heavy Industries Minister Returns From India 59
SDAR President's Message Condemns U.S Aggression 59
Naming Aggressor Prerequisite for Peace 59
Commentary on UN Security Council Statement 60
Interior Minister Meets Afghan Rebel Leader 60
Seminar on Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan 60
IRGC's Foruzandeh on Progress in Ordnance 61
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 61
Blackout in Iraqi Province 61
Communique No 3,064 61
Correction to Khomeyni's Amended Will 62

Nepal

AFP: Government Bans Student Meeting 62

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq on Afghan 'Interim Government' *[Mainz ZDF TV]* 63
President Backs Afghan Self-Determination 63
YAR President Concludes Official Visit 63

Makes Departure Statement *[Sanaa]* 63
Leaves for Beijing 64
Economic Accords Reported *[Sanaa]* 64
Joint Communique Issued *[Sanaa]* 64
'Identical' Views Noted 65

Sri Lanka

IPKF Operations, Clashes With LTTE Reported 66
Indian Ships Off Coast *[Delhi]* 66
14 LTTE Killed, 120 Captured 66
'Notorious' Terrorists Captured 66
18 Killed in Batticaloa 66
More on Batticaloa Clash *[Hong Kong AFP]* 67
Batticaloa 'Near Standstill' *[Delhi]* 67
Arms Cache Recovered *[Delhi]* 67
2 LTTE Captured; 14 Surrender *[Deihi]* 68

29 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD291322 [Editorial Report]

Israel Deportations Policy

Israel will use deportation "whenever necessary" and will take action as it sees fit, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks reported by IDF radio 29 December. Shamir's statement followed a U.S. request that Israel refrain from deporting Arabs from the occupied territories.

On the Arab side, the PLO leadership has carried out contacts with the governments of Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon to coordinate stands against Israel's decision to deport Palestinians, according to a Palestinian news agency release cited by WAKH.

GCC Summit

The conference has approved the GCC "security strategy," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal disclosed in a statement reported by SPA. Al-Faysal, who is official spokesman for the summit, stressed that the strategy was approved by all GCC member states, including Kuwait.

In another development, SPA cited a "responsible" Saudi source's denial of "fabrications" published by Jordan's AL-DUSTUR 28 December, including the paper's claim that the Syrian foreign minister gave King Fahd a message from the Iranian leadership during his recent visit to Riyadh. The source dismissed AL-DUSTUR's contention that Saudi media made "amendments" to King Fahd's remarks on Iran in their coverage of his recent statements. A Saudi spokesman also told SPA that a WASHINGTON POST report about GCC willingness to finance post-war Iranian development projects is "absolutely untrue."

Iran

Foreign Relations—Tehran radio broadcast an Iranian-Libyan joint statement which noted that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's 26-28 December talks with Libyan leaders were held "in an atmosphere filled with brotherly spirit and understanding." The two sides hailed the Palestinian "uprising" as a "decisive reply to all plots" that seek to undermine Palestinian goals through "compromising solutions."

In another development, the Syrian foreign minister arrived in Tehran 29 December carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA reported.

Execution—An "Iraqi spy" of Kurdish origin was hanged in a Tehran square after having been found responsible for a car bomb explosion in 1985, the Prosecutor General's office announced in a statement cited by IRNA.

Afghanistan

The Afghan Armed Forces attacked rebel groups "deployed along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway," Kabul radio reported, adding that large quantities of weaponry were captured and "1,603 extremists were crushed." The radio reaffirmed that the Khowst highway is secure and "open for traffic." However, mujahidin sources declared to IRNA that the town "remains besieged."

Libya-Tunisia

Libya and Tunisia "decided to resume diplomatic relations" in order to "translate their mutual concern" into "fruitful cooperation" toward Arab Maghreb unity, Tunis radio announced, citing a Foreign Ministry statement. Prior to the announcement, Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali telephoned Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to inform him of the decision to "restore brotherly political relations," Tripoli radio reported.

Jordan

Citing sources "close" to King Husayn, Kuwait's AL-QABAS said he "leans toward accepting" the "very attractive" Soviet offer for the sale of MIG-29 aircraft because he is certain that the United States is "not serious" about supplying Jordan with sophisticated fighter planes.

Lebanon

Camps Fighting—The Amal Movement stated that its forces killed five Palestinians during clashes in the Shatila area the night of 28 December, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

IDF Buildup—Beirut radio cited reports that the Israelis reinforced their positions in southern Lebanon with "dozens" of armored vehicles 28-29 December.

Abu Nidal Executions—Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council announced the names of five people it has executed for their alleged involvement in a plot to assassinate its leaders, Beirut radio noted. The group accused Jordanian intelligence, Israel's Mossad, and agents of Yasir 'Arafat of being behind this network.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Contacts Arab Governments on Deportation

JN281258 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 28 Dec (WAKH)—The PLO leadership carried out several contacts during the past 24 hours with the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon to coordinate stands against the decision to deport Palestinians from the occupied territory.

Reporting this today, WAFA said the PLO leadership also sent urgent messages to its UN representative to raise this serious matter with the UN secretary general and the chairman and members of the Security Council.

WAFA said a number of Palestinian and Israeli lawyers, including Lee Zimmel [name as received] and Felicia Langer, condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' oppressive measures against the Palestinians.

Al-Wazir Says Situation To 'Explode' 31 Dec

JN281827 Paris Radio Monte Carlo 1742 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] In a telephone contact with the AFP office in Amman, Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has stated that the situation in the occupied territories will not calm down, but explode once again on 31 December, the eve of the 23d anniversary of the first Fatah military operation against Israel.

PLO's 'Arafat Requests 'Urgent' PRC Assistance

JN260747 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to the PRC leadership appealing for urgent assistance to bolster the Palestinian people's steadfastness and uprising in the occupied territory. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the message, which was delivered to the PRC ambassador in Tunis, Zhu Yinglu, during a meeting with 'Arafat today, asked the PRC Government to continue its political moves in cooperation with the UN secretary general to implement last Tuesday's UN Security Council resolution concerning the situation in the occupied territory. In his message, 'Arafat voiced the Palestinian people's appreciation for PRC support during the UN discussion of the Palestinian problem.

PLO Executive Committee Meetings Continue

JN241814 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee continues its meetings under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to follow up the developments of the heroic and blessed uprising being staged by our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

During its meetings, the PLO Executive Committee will discuss a number of decisions and measures designed to bolster our people's uprising on all levels, the UN Security Council resolution on the terrorist Zionist occupation practices being perpetrated against our people, and the reactions voiced by friendly states and forces in the Arab homeland and the world on the uprising.

PLO Executive Committee Issues 'Appeal'

JN252031 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Dec 87

["Appeal to forces of progress, democracy, and peace" issued by the PLO Executive Committee on 25 December; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when our Palestinian people are continuing their general uprising to liberate themselves from occupation and at a time when the ruling Israeli clique is escalating the methods of savage terrorism and suppression and tightening its racist and fascist iron grip on defenseless civilians through bullets, massive arrests, and destitution, at this very time political and moral stands are put to the test between aligning with the defenders of freedom or the undertakers, those who have opened a gaping abyss for blood and ruination.

We believe this explosive moment is the moment of truth. The Israeli forces of democracy and peace can develop their stands and struggle methods in the face of this terrorism and fascist suppressive policy by mobilizing Israeli public opinion against the occupation, which is not only attacking the Palestinian people's freedom and homeland, but also blocking the road to prospects of a just peace and dragging the region into endless wars.

This is where we pose our question to the forces of democracy and peace and to the entire world public: Who is the terrorist? This question has become unnecessary after the sanguinary picture of the struggle has invaded the world's conscience and after the battles between the Palestinian stones and the Israeli tanks. Where will the road of disavowing the rights of the Palestinian people lead us? And how long will Israeli public conscience continue to revolve in a vicious circle, unable to understand the clear and simple condition for a just peace, namely, freedom for our people in their independent state and peace to whoever wants peace?

Is there no other option than massacre, terrorism, fascism, racism, and concentration camps? The historic moment calls for the unavoidable frank recognition of the Palestinian reality and Palestinian national rights and for developing that conscience to the point of joint

struggle against the Israeli policy which has manifested itself through theory and practice as an enemy of justice, security, peace, freedom, and even of our people's children.

Where is this going to lead us? And how many future wars will the prevailing Israeli condition need to recognize the most basic and natural political realities and to be moved by history and its sound current in which our Palestinian realities have become deeprooted within the consciousness of the entire world and which has also won the international unanimity of world states, peoples, parties, and organizations. This sound current has also won the support of all of the free and honorable.

The Palestinian people have become invulnerable to extermination and will not back down on attaining their national rights since they chose to achieve freedom with no regard for the cost by launching a revolution headed for progress, wave after wave, despite the holocaust they have been experiencing one generation after the other, and also since they chose the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative. Where is this going to lead us and for how long will it continue?

The Israeli public's stand toward the uprising and its reply to the Palestinians' question regarding the attainment of their freedom will—to a large extent— determine the shape of the future. For how long will the ruling Israeli clique be allowed to sacrifice you on the altars of expansion and aggression against our people, land, rights, and the future of the region? For how long will the massacres beginning with Dayr Yasin, Sabra, and Shatila and the new massacres being perpetrated in our occupied homeland be allowed to continue? Is there no other choice as is claimed by the siege imposed on consciousness led by the arrogance of power which is leading this besieged consciousness to the abyss whether it wills this or not?

Yes, there is another choice. Yes, there is a road other than that of terrorism and massacres. Let us end the occupation of the Palestinian people's homeland so that the people who have been offering great sacrifices to achieve freedom can establish an independent state and creatively cultivate their free culture on the soil of their free homeland. Let peace be reestablished on the land of peace. Let this occupation, this killing, and this destitution stop.

PFLP's Habash on Palestinian 'Uprising'

NC241509 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has described the [Palestinian] uprising as the most important one so far. He affirmed it represents the highest point of the Palestinian people's protest against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for more than 20 years. Habash expressed his stand in an interview with the Voice of the Mountain radio.

Assessing the uprising, Dr Habash said its main cause is the occupation. He said: The Zionist enemy is trying to isolate the uprising by talking about certain reasons, such as an incident which had taken place in Gaza. He added: What had transpired in Amman [reference to the Amman Arab summit] created frustration among the masses of our people. Everyone knows that these developments may be considered the causes that directly led to the uprising. However, the original reason behind the uprising is the occupation. As long as the occupation continues, there will be a resistance.

Replying to a question, Dr Habash said: This uprising has been widespread. It started in the territories [occupied] in 1967 and expanded to the 1948 [occupied] areas. The uprising is also characterized by its long duration, the participation of various classes of people, and unity under the unified Palestinian political motto: No solution without liberation and no solution without granting the Palestinian people their full right to self-determination.

Responding to another question, Habash said: We, outside [the occupied territories], whether Palestinian leaders, Lebanese leaders, or all the forces which believe in the battle's pan-Arab character, ought to face our responsibilities and provide real support to this uprising. In my view, true support can be manifested in political stands translated into deeds which, when effected, may make our masses feel they can continue their uprising and that they may remain steadfast and uphold the political slogan: evacuation; self-determination; Palestinian state.

I mean by these political stands the restoration of relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement. I think if genuine efforts are made in the Lebanese arena to turn the painful page of the camps war, this will constitute a tangible support for our uprising masses inside the occupied land. Habash went on: I have high hopes that Comrade Walid Junblatt will play a role in supporting this uprising through his efforts to bring an end to the camps war.

DFLP Official Asks for Red Cross Doctors

JN251316 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Salih Ra'fat, DFLP Political Bureau member and member of the Higher Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs, today said that many of the uprising's martyrs who fell when shot by the Israeli Army were wounded in the limbs. He said they were not admitted to hospital for treatment but were taken to interrogation centers in Israeli military centers and prisons and were left to bleed to death when tortured during interrogation.

Salih Ra'fat appealed to the peaceloving democratic forces in Israel to expose these new crimes. He called on international organizations that defend human rights to condemn such murders of Palestinians and to exercise all forms of international pressure to completely end them.

Salih Ra'fat called on the Red Cross to send teams of doctors to treat more than 500 wounded people. He said the Israeli occupation authorities have withheld medical treatment from these people. Ra'fat urged the United Nations to send observers to stop Israeli repression and to safeguard the security of Palestinian civilians.

PLO Statement on Israeli 'Brutal Aggressions'
JN281719 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Dec 87

["Text" of statement by a "responsible PLO source"—place, date not given]

[Text] Since yesterday morning, the Zionist occupation authorities have imposed a curfew on all Palestinian camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They also initiated a mass arrest campaign against hundreds of men and women of all ages. In addition, the occupation authorities began building a new detention camp in the city of Nabulus. Bulldozers began leveling the ground in an area near the military governor's headquarters in the city of Nabulus and soldiers are setting up tents in the areas being leveled.

The PLO draws the attention of the Arab and world public to these brutal aggressions by the Zionist occupation authorities against the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza. The Zionist occupation forces also prevent the dispatch of food supplies to besieged camps, especially the Al-Burayj, Jabalya, 'Askar, Balatah, Khan Yunus, and Rafah camps. Therefore, the PLO urges international bodies and institutions to interfere immediately to lift the military and supply siege on these camps and to end the terrorist Zionist campaigns against the civilian detainees.

Chad

Goukouni Presence in Libya Linked to Offensive

AB282119 Paris AFP in French 1950 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Paris, 28 Dec (AFP)—This evening Allam-Mi Ahmad, Chadian ambassador to France, denounced the presence of Goukouni Oueddei in Sheba, a major town and an air and land base in southern Libya. According to the ambassador, the presence, first in Tripoli and later in Sheba, of the leader of the GUNT (original GUNT), who normally resides in Algiers, is "part of Libyan preparations to launch a major offensive against Chad." In the eastern part of the country, "clashes have already been going on for several weeks now between the FANT and elements of the Libyan Islamic Legion who came from Sudan," he stated.

In this regard, Mr Allam-Mi confirmed "the large Libyan military presence" in the Sudanese Darfour Province which borders Chad. The ambassador added, violations of Chadian airspace by the Libyan Air Force have now become a daily affair in the north of the country. "Tripoli," Mr Allam-Mi said, "wants to use Goukouni Oueddei again to try and make people believe that it is an inter-Chadian crisis, in contempt of mediation efforts being made by the OAU ad hoc committee in charge of the Chad-Libya conflict."

Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet in January

NC271352 Cairo MENA in English 1343 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 27 (MENA)—The Chadian ambassador here said today Chadian President Hissein Habre will meet, in Dakar, with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of Libya in the first half of January to discuss the outcome of the work of the 16 man committee formed under President Omar Bongo.

The Chadian ambassador denied, in his interview with "AL-NAHAR" newspaper, that some servicemen of the Chadian Army were involved in the looting incidents on the border lines with Chad.

He affirmed his country's keenness to consolidate relations with Sudan, noting that the joint ministerial committee between Sudan and Chad will meet early next year in Ndjamena.

Commentary Views Libyan Attitude Toward OAU

AB290632 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 42d session of the UN General Assembly has just ended in New York. As usual, the annual session examined all international problems and tried to find solutions to them through resolutions and recommendations. It is in this context that the Chad-Libya border conflict was examined. But the General Assembly decided to indefinitely postpone the examination of the Chad-Libya case, thus leaving it in the hands of the OAU. Tossin Ngao reports:

[Ngao] Beginning his report, the Libyan representative to the UN, 'Ali al-Turayki, described this as a wise decision which, in his opinion, is in accordance with the Charter which says that all disputes must be settled at the regional level, that is, in this case by the OAU. This official liar and paid agent of Al-Qadhdhafi goes so far as to define this UN decision as a victory for Africa and spoke of the OAU as the best platform for settling this dispute.

Answering the question on what Libya will do if the OAU ad hoc committee makes a decision unfavorable to Tripoli, the terrorist diplomat answered that the role of the ad hoc committee is not to find a solution to the conflict, since it is not a legal body, but rather to coordinate the viewpoints of the two countries and get them to accept international arbitration. Without once again trying to go into the details of the responsibilities of the UN and the OAU, we will simply tell ignorant Libya that in matters of peace and security in Africa, the OAU does not have exclusive authority.

Concerning the role of the OAU ad hoc committee, the argument advanced by Al-Turayki is not only contradictory to the Libyan attitude toward this subcommittee but also demonstrates in what state of mind the Libyans intend to approach the upcoming summit of the OAU ad hoc committee in Dakar. The argument is contradictory because Libya has systematically avoided the reconciliation of viewpoints aimed at by the continental organization. It was absent from the deliberations of the committee's experts meeting in Libreville, Gabon. Al-Qadhdhafi refused to receive the ministerial mission of the same committee sent to Tripoli. Libya, a party to the conflict, sent a low-level representative to the Lusaka heads of state summit. How can Al-Turayki assert that Libya wanted a reconciliation of viewpoints? But where the entire behavior of Libya is particularly illuminating is when Al-Turayki says that this OAU ad hoc committee has the role of convincing the two countries to have recourse to international arbitration. But he forgets to tell us if the Tripoli regime will willingly adhere to the decision of this international court. By acting in this way, Libya relies on the slowness of this international procedure to bury the case.

Therefore, at the next OAU ad hoc committee meeting in Dakar, we should not expect an increase in Libya's goodwill, and we should expect even less to see Al-Qadhdhafi in the Senegalese capital, even though this is the expectation of the OAU chairman and the ad hoc committee.

On the other hand, the ad hoc committee needs to be more vigilant and discerning to avoid all the traps and the diversionary tactics which the Libyans will not fail to use. And finally, Al-Turayki should know that to ensure Africa's victory, there must be an end to the conflict and a final settlement in accordance with the law.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Gulf, Arab Issues, Peace

JN260744 Cairo AL-JUMHIRIYAH in Arabic 23 Dec 87 pp 3,4

[Interview with President Mubarak by chief editor of Iraqi magazine ALIF BA' in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ALIF BA': Our meeting, Mr President, coincides with two major events: the beginning of your second term as president, for which you were overwhelmingly voted into office, and restored ties between Egypt and Arab states, including Iraq, following the Amman Arab summit. Monitoring Egyptian developments, I see the Egyptians hope you will entrench democracy, tackle the country's economic ills, and return Egypt to the Arab fold. You have come a long way on these three fronts.

However, I am interested to hear from you personally the order of priorities in your second term as president.

President Mubarak: As a matter of fact, my priorities have not changed. Egypt's economy is my top priority. The people want decent jobs, incomes, and accommodation, as well as sufficient food. The country's economic ills are my major preoccupation. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': Mr President, I would like to raise the subject of Egypt's internal security, which interests us as much as it does our Egyptian brethren. Don't you think, Mr President, that terrorist activity in this or that Arab country is the direct or indirect result of the policies of Khomeyni, who wants to stir up trouble in the region to further his objectives and who has set a bad example by using the mask of religion to seize power?

President Mubarak: We can't possibly ascribe all terrorist activity to Khomeyni. The issue is much too involved, although the Khomeyni factor is certainly one aspect of the problem. However, economic and other ills are a catalyst for terror—not that terrorist activity is a peculiarity of Egypt. The problem exists in all of the Arab countries. If the problem of terror surfaces here, it is because Egypt is an open democracy, where everyone can air his views. There are countries where there is no freedom of speech. But with Egypt's multiparty system, freedom of press, and free flow of information, the issue comes to the surface.

Terrorism is a worldwide phenomenon. You find it in the Middle East, in Muslim and Christian countries, in Europe and the USSR, and in the Far East. We are taking various approaches to the problem. Apparently the problem is being made much of, given Egypt's clout in the region. As I have just said, we are tackling this problem in various ways. I can tell you that in the final analysis, security in Egypt is in good shape and terrorism poses no threat.

ALIF BA': Despite many UN resolutions and Iraq's peaceful overtures, Iran continues to beat the drums of war, expanding it, and publicly threatening regional countries. What role can Egypt possible play to contain these public threats to the Gulf states?

President Mubarak: Let's be relistic and ask why Iran, or any other country for that matter, picks on us. They are using the principle of divide and rule. As long as we are torn from within and split by differences, any enemy of the Arab nation should not find it too hard to penetrate its ranks. That's why I have often enough urged that the Arabs get together, deliberate their problems, and work out common objectives. Even if they disagree, the Arabs must still coordinate their moves to advance the interests of the Arab nation. When there are inter-Arab differences, our enemies are bound to capitalize on them. How we can contain threats is up to us.

Thanks be to God, the Amman summit has set in motion a dialogue among Arab brothers. I am extremely happy, not just because of restored relations with Egypt, but also because the Arabs are now meeting with one another, which is how we can best solve our problems. Let there be dialogue among ourselves. Let there be differences as well, but they should be smoothed over by dialogue. Let's not hurl abuse at one another. Let's not help the Arab nation's enemies against our brethren.

I suggest that we invoke the time-honored Arab saying: "I take my brother's side against our cousin, who takes our side against a stranger." If, for instance, we should disagree with you in Iraq, this need not lead to a slinging match. We can disagree and still talk to each other. Disagreements need not lead to infighting. We can have our differences of opinion and meet to sort them out. If you and I disagree over something, we need not go to war, or stop talking to each other. This is alien to Islam and the Arab nation. It is not a sound approach.

Keeping the lines of communication open between Arab countries should dampen their differences. If we agree on this approach and stick with one another, then those of us who maintain friendly ties with Iran may invest them to advance rather than harm Arab interests. I have nothing against any Arab country having relations with Iran, provided it does not allow Tehran to split the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': In the aftermath of the Iranian aggression against Islamic holy places in Mecca, Egypt called for an Islamic summit conference. Are you still interested in such a summit? How can an Islamic summit go about deterring Iranian sabotage and deviation?

President Mubarak: I did call for an Islamic summit, but some have since advised against it, citing Iranian calls for the conference to take up an internationalization of the holy places in Saudi Arabia. What's all this about? Is it to make an issue out of it, or violate the sovereignty of an Islamic country? Here again we are fighting one another as Muslim countries grouped in one organization. This is painful. Does it make sense for fighting to take place in holy Mecca? Does it make sense for demonstrations and marches to take place in holy Mecca? If we fail to respect the sanctity of this land, then where is our Islamic faith and creed?

If you must march, do it on your own land and in your own country; once you are in a sacred spot, you must show respect and piety. This is Saudi territory. How can it be internationalized? It just doesn't make sense. Can Iran provide protection for the holy mosque, while Saudi Arabia cannot? This is nonsense. Saudi Arabia is a sovereign country and can protect the Holy Mosque. Maybe Saudi Arabia chose not to intervene so massively to avoid excessive bloodshed in the holy places. Many more lives would have been lost. This is a holy spot where there should not be any shooting or bloodshed. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': UN Security Council Resolution No 598 provided a good opening for the international community to halt hostilities between Iraq and Iran and work out an honorable peace for the two sides. Iran, however, adamantly refuses to abide by the resolution and is preparing for a new round of war. What kind of tactics do you think the international community should apply to enforce the resolution?

President Mubarak: There are options, but these are regrettably obstructed by certain interests. There are opponents and proponents of sanctions; international interests come into play here. The resolution must, however, be enforced. What is the point of the United Nations and the Security Council if it is not enforced? After all, international organizations were created to solve such problems. Nations must go along with the majority vote if there is to be peace and coexistence along with affluence and higher living standards.

ALIF BA': International moves to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran are characterized by posturing. Average Iraqis have the impression the world powers are not serious about these moves, and that peace is not in their interests. What do you think?

President Mubarak: International interests do sometimes have a bearing, and the Arabs must take this into account. I repeat that the world will come to respect the Arabs once they work out common positions and achieve solidarity. All the world has vested interests in the Arab region. If we agree among ourselves and deny others the chance to split our ranks, I am certain the international community will join our efforts to solve our problems, because it has interests in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': The state of Arab affairs, Mr President, is a matter of daily concern for the Arab man in the street. Do your recent meetings with His Majesty King Husayn about the results of the Amman summit give you grounds for optimism over Arab affairs?

President Mubarak: I think the Arabs are now on the right tack. We are beginning to understand one another. King Husayn is not sparing himself, and I appreciate his efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria. Despite the absence of relations between Egypt and Syria I was gratified to see Syria and Iraq come closer. A reconcilation between Syria and Iraq would affect us. Normalized Arab relations and a reunion of brothers would be an auspicious thing. I very much hope King Husayn will pursue his efforts so we may iron out our points of disagreement and reunite as one cohesive family, capable of defending its interests.

ALIF BA': Egypt's avowed policy of refusing to be a substitute for the PLO in peace moves meets with widespread Arab approval. How do you assess recent international moves in this regard?

President Mubarak: Egypt would never have held talks or negotiations on the Palestinian cause on behalf of the Palestinians—something about which there may have been some misunderstanding. We never talked in the name of the Palestinians—neither when I was vice president nor now when I am president. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': Some Arabs, Mr President, hope the Reagan-Gorbachev summit will help solve the Mideast problem. Do you share this hope?

President Mubarak: That would take real, combined Arab efforts in all directions. Arab problems will not be solved while we sit and wait for for Reagan and Gorbachev to serve a solution on a sliver platter; this is impossible. It will take real Arab efforts underpinned by an Arab agreement and a unified perception of Arab causes, goals, and ways to solve Arab problems. [passage omitted]

ALIF BA': Do you contemplate a visit to the United States?

President Mubarak: There is nothing new to call for one. President Reagan has invited me to visit the United States. I have been too preoccupied to accept the invitation yet. I might visit the United States in the new year, if new developments make it necessary. Relations between Egypt and the United States are good.

Austrian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

MENA Interview Before Visit

NC251100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 25 Dec (MENA)—Dr Alois Mock, Austrian foreign minister and chairman of the Austrian People's Party now sharing power in the country, has lauded President Husni Mubarak's wise policy; his efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East; and his eagerness to ensure security and stability for the people in the region.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Austrian foreign minister stressed that President Mubarak's wisdom and farsightedness from the outset was the key factor paving the way for the Arab countries' resumption of diplomatic relations with their elder sister Egypt. Dr Mock added that Austria welcomes this positive move, which will consolidate security and stability in the region. He stated that President Mubarak had convinced the Arab countries that only through solidarity and unity of action among the Arab countries could the obstacles to a solution of the Mideast problem and other pending matters be surmounted.

Dr Mock granted the interview on the occasion of his visit to Cairo, which will begin tomorrow and last for 10 days, at the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. In his interview, Dr Mock stressed his country's eagerness to find a solution for the Palestinian issue, which is the core and crux of the Middle East issue, in a bid to achieve stability and peace on the basis of justice in the region.

He pointed out that the security of Europe and the Middle East is inseparable and noted that Austria is interested in the need to achieve progress in the Middle East issue. He added that his country had called for convening an international conference for peace in the region under the aegis of the UN, and that it is exerting efforts to help hold this conference. The Austrian foreign minister called for the need for all the parties concerned in the conflict to take part in this conference on an equal footing. He said his country is willing to host the international conference in Vienna, noting that, in order to ensure its success, Austria is also ready to provide all the facilities and expertise it has gained throughout its long years of dealing with the Middle East issue.

In his interview with MENA, the Austrian foreign minister expressed his appreciation for the development of the political, economic, trade, and cultural relations between Egypt and Austria. He said: We are proud of the level which the relations between the two countries have reached. They are considered as a model for the relations which should exist among states.

Dr Alois Mock said that during his visit to Cairo, which will begin tomorrow, he will discuss with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Egyptian Government's senior officials ways of bolstering and developing bilateral cooperation in the various fields and the possibility of giving a political push to the development of these relations.

Dr Mock added that views will be exchanged between the Egyptian and Austrian sides on political issues of common interest, foremost being the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and developments in the Middle East, to which Austria has given and is still giving much attention.

The Austrian foreign minister called upon all peace-loving states to support UN Resolution 598, which is an important step toward ending this horrible war, and to adopt all methods and means to implement it in order to put an end to the war between the two disputing parties.

Dr Mock expressed his country's concern over the deterioration of the conditions in Lebanon as a result of its continuing civil war. He said that Austria is following these developments with deep concern, and it is confident that the restoration of Lebanon's unity and independence is the basis for restoring stability in this region.

In conclusion, the Austrian foreign minister referred to the African states' debt problem, saying that Africa receives the lion's share of the Austrian development aid and that Austria supports the efforts of the international finance organizations to help the African states solve their financial and economic problems.

Arrives 26 Dec

NC261641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 4-day official visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival, the Austrian foreign minister said his talks in Cairo will deal with ways of developing existing relations between Egypt and Austria, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the situation in the Gulf. He praised the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, the resumption of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries, and the summit's support for efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue. He also affirmed his country's support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices.

The Austrian foreign minister stated that Austria condemned Israel's acts of violence against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. He said: Violence is not the way to settle the dispute. The relevant Security Council resolutions must be implemented.

Concluding his statement, Foreign Minister Mock noted that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has received an invitation from President Husni Mubarak to visit Egypt. Waldheim welcomed the invitation and the date of the visit will be determined later, he added.

The Austrian foreign minister was received on his arrival by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi and Austrian Ambassador in Cairo Heimo Kellner.

Official Talks Open

NC271038 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The official talks between Egypt and Austria opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is leading the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while the Austrian side is headed by Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister.

The talks will cover international topics of common interest and developments in the Middle East and the Gulf, as well as bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the various fields.

Views Talks With Minister

NC271326 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, praised Egypt's policy under President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, which is aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East. He said that he will convey a verbal message from Austrian President Waldheim to President Mubarak.

He added that his talks today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, were constructive and useful. He praised the excellent relations between Egypt and Austria, expressing hope of strengthening these relations in all fields.

The Austrian official said that the Amman summit had acknowledged Egypt's role in the efforts to bring about a peaceful solution in the Middle East region. He stressed his country's support for holding the international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN supervision and said that the Amman summit's support for Egypt's stand will help in convening the conference.

He called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war and stressed the importance of backing the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve this goal.

He also declared Austria's condemnation of Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

In another development, the Austrian foreign minister met this afternoon with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed Egypt's role in lending support to Africa's problems and in solving them through peaceful means.

Dinner Speeches Exchanged

NC271921 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt appreciates Austria's principled stand on the Middle East problem, according to which the Palestinian issue is considered to be the crux of the conflict in the region. He added that Egypt also appreciates Austria's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said this while delivering a speech at the dinner banquet he held in honor of Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister. He said that recent events in the occupied Arab territories have proved without any doubt the wiseness and soundness of Austria's policy, according to which there will be no just and lasting peace in the region without a solution of all aspects of the Palestinian issue. 'Abd al-Majid said that 20 years of suffering and occupation have not weakened the Palestinian peoples' determination or their aspiration for freedom and independence.

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed that Egypt highly appreciates Austria's stand of support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East as the only way to achieve a just solution to the problem.

In his speech, Alois Mock dealt with the firm relations between Austria and Egypt. He praised the important efforts which Egypt has undertaken to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Mock also expressed gratitude over Egypt's return to the Arab fold and stressed that this will strengthen Egypt's role in achieving peace in the region.

The Austrian foreign minister declared his country's support for holding an international peace conference under UN auspices. He also called for intensifying efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war.

Received by Mubarak

NC281040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, at the Presidential Palace this morning. Also present at the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Heimo Kellner, Austrian ambassador in Cairo.

Comments on Cooperation

NC281211 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Austrian Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock has again expressed his regret at the use of violence against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He stated that what is happening there is a real warning to all parties to continue to seek a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

The Austrian foreign minister asserted that these events are a new justification to strongly support the convening of an international peace conference under UN auspices. He remarked that bilateral and collective efforts should be made toward this end. In a statement following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, the Austrian foreign minister said that the Arab summit which was held in Amman had reaffirmed Egypt's leading status. He noted that new views regarding the resolution of the various regional conflicts in the Middle East have appeared as a result.

Alois Mock expressed satsifaction with the discussion he held with President Mubarak today and remarked that a new phase of bilateral cooperation has begun since the recent visit to Austria by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Austrian foreign minister expressed his country's interest in promoting bilateral relations and announced that the Austrian chancellor will visit Egypt next February. He added that the chancellor's visit will be followed by a visit by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Responding to a question on the prospects of joint cooperation between Egypt and Austria, the Austrian foreign minister said that the current prosperous economy in Egypt is very encouraging and induces us to do our utmost to increase the number of joint projects. He noted that, currently, there are encouraging examples of such bilateral cooperation. He added: I am returning to my country determined to encourage Austrian companies to increase their dealings with the Egyptian market, which is the largest in the Arab world.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed support for the views of the Austrian foreign minister and remarked that the growth of trade exchange and technical and cultural cooperation with Austria will open up new prospects to promote both countries' interests.

In a statement he made today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he believes that the relations between the two countries are continuously improving. He noted that this is the first visit by the Austrian foreign minister to Egypt and that it has given him an excellent impression of development possibilities in Egypt. He noted that the Austrian official had expressed this plainly in his talks with President Mubarak.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the prospects for bilateral cooperation as extensive. He added that these prospect will be promoted and developed. He said that the Austrian foreign minister had offered Austria's willigness to participate in the celebrations marking the inauguration of the new opera house next November.

Meets Defense Minister

NC281115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received in his office today Alois Mock, the Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, who is visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed ways of developing cooperation between Egypt and Austria, particularly in the military field.

Received by Prime Minister

NC281538 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock at his office this afternoon. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting. Egyptian-Austrian cooperation, particularly in the commercial and technical fields, the European role in bringing about a just and peaceful Middle East settlement, and the efforts to hold an international conference for Middle East peace were discussed during the meeting.

Cited on Talks, Debts

NC281935 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, today hailed his country's relations with Egypt in all domains.

At a news conference he held today, Mock said that his talks with President Husni Mubarak were positive and fruitful. He also noted his country's readiness to participate in Egypt's economic development projects. In this connection, Mock stated that Egyptian officials had handed him a list of projects in which Austria can participate.

As for the rescheduling of Egypt's debts to Austria, Mock expressed the hope that arrangements for this will be finalized in January. He mentioned that $2 million of the $7 million total Egyptian debt to Austria will be rescheduled.

Mock described as useful his talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning.

The Austrian official disclosed that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will pay an official visit to Egypt next year in response to an earlier invitation by President Husni Mubarak, which has been renewed. He added that Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky will visit Egypt in February. [passage omitted]

Regarding peace in the Middle East, Dr Mock affirmed that an international conference for peace is the only hope for establishing peace in the area. He noted that such a conference makes it possible for the various parties to exchange views. The Austrian foreign minister said that the prospects for convening this conference have increased following the restoration of Arab relations with Egypt in the wake of the Amman summit conference, as Egypt has an important and positive role to play in achieving peace in the area.

Referring to the Gulf war, the Austrian foreign minister affirmed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end this war or at least to continue the efforts to bring about a cease-fire between the warring parties in the Gulf. He noted in this regard his country's readiness to participate in a UN force to maintain security and peace in the areas of conflict in the Middle East, as it is doing in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Concludes Official Visit

NC291316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—The Austrian delegation accompanying Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, left Cairo today, winding up a 4-day official visit to Egypt. It is worth noting that Mock is on his way to Luxor and Aswan for a week-long private visit.

Mubarak Accepts Official Kuwaiti Invitation

NC241216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a written message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, officially inviting him to visit his second home, Kuwait. This was stated by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd al-Razziq al-Kandari, who delivered the message during his meeting with President Mubarak this morning.

He added that President Mubarak has accepted the invitation and that he will visit Kuwait very soon. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti ambassador also said that his country's finance minister will visit Cairo on 5 January for 3 days at the invitation of his brother Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister.

Responding to a question about Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah's recent visit to Kuwait, Al-Kandari said that it was a visit to his second home country and there is nothing strange in Egyptian officials visiting Kuwait. He added that the visit was an opportunity to meet with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

He noted that Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah held detailed, clear, and frank talks with Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah. He also discussed various issues related to the conditions in the Gulf region in general and in Kuwait in particular. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Assesses Arab Relations

NC272135 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that 1987 witnessed a great development in Arab-Egyptian relations. He said that this was the result of President Husni Mubarak's efforts, which had led to this development, the recent Arab summit in Amman, and the restoration of diplomatic relations between a number of Arab countries and Egypt.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt considers its national security to be part of the Gulf countries' security. He said that Egypt wants stability for the Gulf countries and supports their independence by cooperating and coordinating with them and by exchanging visits and expertise which aim to upgrade and strengthen this cooperation and coordination.

Ghali Confers With Southern Sudanese Official

NC271927 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Samuel Aru, chairman of the Political Grouping in southern Sudan [title as received], this evening. Aru is currently visiting Cairo within the framework of the contacts Egypt is making with the various parties and personalities in Sudan.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the developments in the Sudanese situation and the efforts Egypt is exerting to resolve the differences between Ethiopia and Sudan. The two officials also examined the significance of the task that Dr Ghali will be carrying out during his African tour which will begin on Monday and which will take him to Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan.

Butrus Ghali Leaves on African Tour 28 Dec

NC280732 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this morning to begin an African tour during which he will visit Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. On his way back to Cairo after the tour, Dr Ghali will also visit Khartoum.

In a statement to the radio correspondent prior to his departure, his excellency stated that he is making this tour on the instructions of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and that it is part of Egypt's diplomatic efforts to bolster relations among all African countries, and the Nile Basin Countries in particular. He added that he will deliver written messages from President Husni Mubarak to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

PLO's Jamal al-Surani Arrives in Cairo

NC281717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1614 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani arrived in Cairo this afternoon. In an arrival statement, Al-Surani praised Egypt's positive stands with regard to the Palestinian issue, mentioning in particular President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's positive stand which led to Egypt's condemnation of Israel's repressive practices against the Palestinian people. These practices, Al-Surani pointed out, run counter to Geneva treaties and the UN Charter.

Al-Surani revealed that the date for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt will be determined soon.

Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian ties, Al-Surani said that PLO officials will be meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman shortly. He noted that preparations for this meeting, the aim of which is to clear the atmosphere and to form a unified Arab stand prior to the international conference, are currently underway.

Concerning the PLO office at the United Nations, Al-Surani said that 45 states have voted against the closure of the PLO office in New York, a move for which certain lobbying had taken place within the U.S. Congress. The closure, Al-Surani pointed out, would contravene the agreement between the United Nations and the United States, according to which all UN members, including those with observer status, have the right to move and to perform their tasks in the United Nations and its organizations without impediment.

Iran Conveys Proposals for Returning POW's

JN262146 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Dec 87 p 7

[By Muhammad Isma'il]

[Text] Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi, secretary general of the Liberal Socialist Party [LSP], has said that when President Mubarak received him the day before yesterday, he conveyed to him a verbal message from some leaders of the Iranian revolution. The message includes Iran's welcome to hand over Egyptian POW's through the two countries' channels of understanding, which would be accomplished by a number of Egyptian men of religion, such as former Awqaf Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Isa, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid Kishk.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, 'Abd al-Shafi said the president listened attentively to the verbal message. He pointed out that he also conveyed to the president new Iranian proposals and ideas to stop the Iraq-Iran war. 'Abd al-Shafi declined to explain these proposals and described them as less flexible than previous Iranian conditions to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. He said the Iranian revolution sought to convey these new ideas through Egypt in view of its appreciation by the Iranian Government and people.

'Abd al-Shafi pointed to the importance of popular diplomacy. He said he is scheduled to visit Iran again. An LSP delegation, comprised of Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi and Al-Hamzah Di'bis, LSP secretary, visited Iran in early December to attend the conference on the Holy Mosque's sanctity and security called for by Iran. During its visit, the delegation held contacts with a number of Iranian revolution leaders and men of religion.

Mosad Agents Among U.S. Company Employees

JN241215 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Dec 87 pp 3, 15

[Text] Cairo—Informed sources in Cairo said yesterday that the Egyptian security services have information on large-scale activity by the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad, in Egypt.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the reports referred to senior Egyptian officials indicate that the Egyptian security services have uncovered a spy network working for Mosad among workers on a project to expand the Bani Suwayf military airport which the U.S. company, General Dynamics, has been developing for the past 3 years. According to the reports, General Dynamics, which is known to have close relations with the Zionist entity, has a large number of Israelis among its workers, experts, and engineers.

The reports reveal that the Egyptian security services monitored several meetings between U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner and senior officials of the company at a big hotel in the pyramids area.

The Egyptian security services have also monitored meetings between Moshe Sason, the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, and Mosad agents. Some of the meetings were attended by the U.S. ambassador. According to available information, General Dynamics tried to win a contract for another military project in the (Hikestop) military area near Cairo.

An Egyptian security report has proposed several recommendations, including the expulsion of 10 senior employees of the company in view of their suspicious movements, and the construction of special housing for the company's employees near the Bani Suwayf airport to reduce the number of meetings that are held in Cairo.

AL-ITTIHAD has also learned that, according to another report, the Egyptian security services surveilled the movements of diplomats at the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria. They request their expulsion from the country as it has been confirmed that they have monitored secret reports about some Egyptian military positions in Alexandria.

According to other reports, the Egyptian-Israeli military commission has received an Israeli request to remove Egyptian officers. The Israeli request identifies the names and ranks of the officers thus indicating—in the view of the Egyptian security services—Mosad's increased activity in Sinai, although the nature of the area presents difficulties to the activities of the Israeli secret service.

Paper Details 'Ayn Shams University Protest

JN251325 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
22 Dec 87 p 6

[Text] Thousands of 'Ayn Shams University students staged peaceful demonstrations on their campus yesterday in solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people who are being tortured and persecuted in the occupied Arab territories. The students chanted slogans calling on all the Arab countries to support the Palestinian people in their present tribulation. They stressed the need for immeidate action to force Israel to immediately halt its terrorist measures in the occupied Arab territories and the Gaza Strip. The student demonstrations in the university campus lasted for more than 2 hours.

Need for Arab Summit To Support Uprising

NC280638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT
27 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—The news of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and of the Israeli ocupation authorities' suppressive actions against the unarmed Palestinians continues to engage the interest of the Egyptian newspapers. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR calls on all the Arabs to adopt a stronger and more resolute stand to support those strugglers in this battle, which the paper describes as inequitable between the occupation forces and the sons of the Palestinian people.

The paper calls for the need to either convene an emergency Arab summit or regard the Amman summit conference as being in constant session, and then to discuss the various ways that will enable all the Arab states to provide material, moral, and informational assistance to the struggling Palestinian youths so they may continue their revolutionary uprising, which has robbed the Israeli leaders of their sleep after these leaders imagined that they had silenced the Palestinians forever.

The paper notes that this uprising has provided the Arab leaders with an opportunity to show their solidarity in a real manner, and not in the form of a mere slogan which they reiterate. It emphasizes that the Arab leaders can do a great deal if they unify their efforts, especially in the international arena, to prove to the world that there are peoples who are prepared to support the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi's Violation Claims Questioned

JN241835 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
20 Dec 87 p 5

["Every Day" column by Faruq al-Shadhili]

[Text] Sorry colonel, but your daily talk about Egypt and its Armed Forces has recently increased in an obvious manner. Actually, Egypt, with its political and military leadership, does not want to reply to such talk which has already been dealt with in previous statements. Still, we will pause. You said you offered assistance to Egypt during the October war, yet it is now assisting Chad. I say, colonel, if you had taken the trouble to go back to the archives—since you have made many statements in which you do not know what you said or what you would say—you would have found that you said the October war was a theatrical. Did you have a role in that exposed theatrical? Or, have you changed your opinion about the heroism of Egypt's heroic men and soldiers, who created with their blood and souls, the victory that held our heads high and restored our honor?

You also said Israeli planes, guarded by Egyptian aircraft and helicopters, flew over Libyan territory. First, thank you for suggesting there is military coordination between Egypt and Israel against you. You have forgotten the daily news agency reports about problems in relations between the two countries. You also have forgotten that Egypt has not dealt with Israel in a military field since the signing of the peace treaty. If these planes indeed flew over Libyan territory, and this is not a dream or a figment of the imagination of a leader who has direct contact with heaven, whatever happened to the Libyan air defense system? Where were the planes you send daily to raid the defenseless Chadian people?

Have you not thought of defending Libyan territory? Why have these defense means, which cost the Libyan people a great deal, not confronted those planes; especially since the helicopters you claim to have seen are not fast aircraft and could easily have been shot down by any missile or air defense system. In fact, we in Egypt have soldiers who can deal with such aircraft with shoulder-borne missiles or rifles if they ever violate our territory and national security.

Sorry colonel, let your military communiques be interpreted well by your mercenary advisers who you have gathered from every corner of the globe and on whom you have spent billions. Let them correct some of your information so you will not make errors in the basics of militarism and so people will not doubt your military rank.

However, if your aim is political and seditous—to show to the world that Egypt does not stand by the Arab states—then rest assured, brother colonel, that Chad is a friendly country and, between you and me, also Islamic. If your aim is to say there is military cooperation between Egypt and Israel against you—just as the Egyptian-U.S. cooperation you once imagined—at a time when you have seen Egypt begin open military cooperation with its sisterly Arab states, then we say Egypt has announced it will support any fraternal Arab state that is facing danger with all of its strength.

Colonel, Egypt's return to the Arabs was inevitable and it only took certain formalities. Read the Arab papers and their Arab writers who say Egypt is the heart of the Arab homeland. Perhaps this has disturbed your aspirations to become the sole leader of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

Colonel, may God help you work for the well-being of the Libyan people, who need only a small percentage of what you spend creating problems and disturbances in certain Arab countries or filling your arsenals with arms for which no one knows the purpose. You spend more money on mercenaries than on the education of the Libyan people. May God guide you on the right path.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on World Issues

LD291117 BBC World Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, has called on both Iran and Iraq to end the Gulf war quickly. He made the call in a wide-ranging interview with the BBC. The war, he said, served no useful purpose and was destroying the Iranian and Iraqi revolutions. Col al-Qadhdhafi also issued a warning to Iran, which his government supports in the conflict. He said Libya was ready to fight against Iran if it turned itself into a colonial power in the Gulf. The Iranian foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has just ended talks in Libya with Col al-Qadhdhafi and Tehran radio said the Libyan leader had expressed his continuing support for Iran.

In the interview, Col al-Qadhdhafi described the unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories as a popular uprising. And he said the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East was not adequate for dealing with the Palestinian problem. Col al-Qadhdhafi also dismissed recent reports that Libya was trying to improve its relations with the West. Libya, he declared, did not need the West.

Al-Qadhdhafi Appeals to UN for Palestinians

LD251642 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Here is the text:

Mr Secretary General:

There is no doubt that you have been following the uprising of 5 million Palestinians in the occupied land and the persecution and indiscriminate killing they face, which is committed by the racist Israeli occupiers in a desperate attempt to obliterate their just cause and their right to their land and to a free and dignified life.

The uprising of the Palestinian people and their resolve to die for the sake of liberating their homeland, which is occupied by the Israelis, confirm to the world that there is a people whose land is occupied and controlled by racist Zionists who have confronted the will of this people with bullets and savagery the like of which the world has not seen before, a matter that has exposed this people to a continuous spilling of blood and the daily fall of victims.

The world cannot ignore these criminal massacres and it has to end the recklessness and brutality against the the Palestinian Arab people that has occurred since the usurpation of Palestine until these incidents.

Mr Secretary General, after consulting with leaders of the Palestinian people and their institutions, both inside and outside the occupied areas, about the tragic situation in Palestine and the ways to confront it, and due to the gravity of the situation, I have found it necessary to address you in your capacity as UN secretary general and to appeal to you. Your organizaiton should take urgent and effective measures to stop the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people on their own soil and save this people from the yoke and tyranny of the racist Zionist state which has usurped Palestinian territories.

Mr Secretary General, in your capacity as UN secretary general it is now vital to condemn these racist crimes, to adopt urgent and effective measures to stop the Zionist crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied

territories, to punish the culprits, and to work toward giving the Palestinian people the opportunity to regain their land and to achieve their complete freedom.

Sends Letters to Groups

LD261919 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Following the intensive talks conducted by the leader of the revolution over the last few days with the leaderships of the Palestinian resistance and people inside and outside the occupied land over the daily crimes perpetrated by the Zionist colonialists against the Palestinian people, the leader of the revolution has sent letters to the secretary-chairman of the Non-aligned Movement and the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In these letters, the leader has asked the above to shoulder their international responsibilities vis-a-vis the mass-murder and oppression the Arab nationals in occupied Palestine are subjected to at the hands of the racist and Zionist colonialists.

The leader of the revolution has called on these international organisations all its members and bodies to make haste in taking immediate, practical measures against the Zionist enemy which has usurped Palestine. The scope of the savagery and danger of this enemy to mankind and civilized [as received] has been confirmed to the world at large as a new form of Nazism and an entity based on crime and racism.

Memo Urges Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting

LD251352 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Dec (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison sent a memorandum to the Arab League secretary general calling for an emergency session of Arab foreign ministers. The meeting would discuss the explosive situation in occupied Palestine and the means to confront the crimes to which the Arab people in occupied Palestine are exposed, and to work toward adopting deterrent and effective measures to stop the crimes of the Zionist racists who usurped the land of Palestine.

Sources Say 'Alternative' Summit Postponed

LD252053 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1726 GMT 25 Dec 87

['Pool' item]

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 25 (TANJUG)—The alternative Arab summit, scheduled to begin here tomorrow, has been indefinitely postponed, informed Arab sources have said. Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi had invited the heads of state, i.e. ruling party leaders and deputies of a number of Arab countries, to come to Libya for a "counter-summit" to the Arab meeting at the top held in Amman last November.

The sources said that Al-Qadhdhafi had decided to postpone the summit because he was disatisfied with the response to his invitations.

Invitations to an alternate Arab summit were sent to Algeria, Syria, the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and radical [words indistinct].

Some sources said that Iraq had also been invited. According to some usually well-informed sources, Baghdad said that it had "achieved more" at the Amman summit than it could have hoped for in Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD241942 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, member of Fatah Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

The brother leader of the revolution also received Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP.

During the two meetings, they studied the escalating revolution of the Arab masses in occupied Palestine and ways of consolidating this revolution and escalating the armed struggle, the only way to combat the Zionist enemy and to liberate Palestine.

PLO's Al-Wazir Departs

LD251617 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday after concluding their visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

In comment made to JANA, Mr. al-Wazir says that the ongoing uprising in the occupied land has changed the status of the Arab nation from merely talking about capitulation and submission to the talk on bullets and armed struggle. He stresses that the continuation of the armed struggle against the Zionist entity is the only way to liberate Palestine. He points out that his meeting with the leader of the revolution focussed on supporting the people's revolution raging in occupied Palestine, apart from stepping up the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy to liberate Palestine.

He adds that during this meeting with the leader of the revolution, we have found utmost response and follow-up regarding all the developments taking place in occupied Palestine.

DFLP Leader Leaves

LD281035 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah left Tripoli at noon yesterday following his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA prior to his departure, he said: We had lengthy meetings with brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the trustee of pan-Arabism. It was evident throughout these talks that the Jamahiriyah provides all types of aid to the overwhelming, popular uprising by the heroes, women, and elderly throughout all of occupied Palestine.

He said that the uprising has encompassed all of occupied Palestine including the West Bank, Gaza, Galilee, Jerusalem, the triangle, the coastal areas, and the Negev. We wish the Arab borders around us were open, he said, so that we could turn them into an overwhelming armed revolution that would end once and for all the Zionist occupation and restore to our people their right to exist under the sun within the framework of their Arab nation and its historic unity.

He called for the establishment of a unified pan-Arab front to confront the enemy. He added that the Arab countries must meet quickly to adopt effective measures and provide political and material aid to the uprising. He said: We support the proposal of the Great Jamahiriyah for calling an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to provide all they can to the sons of the Palestinian people and provide them with the guns which would enable them to turn the revolution of stones into an armed popular revolution. The Arab countries should stand firmly alongside the Palestinian Arab people in order to liberate occupied Palestine.

Abu Musa Holds Tripoli Press Conference

LD251616 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Abu Musa, Sec. Gen. of National Liberation Movement—Fatah, in a press conference held yesterday attended by Arab and foreign correspondents, has stressed that the ongoing uprising in the occupied land is a genuine revolution taking place in the whole of Palestine. He points out that this revolution rejects totally the Zionist presence. It is, he adds, neither the first nor the last one. We will work through the armed struggle to liberate Palestine.

We, he continues, work with all the progressive forces spearheaded by great Al-Jamahiriyah to continue this uprising and step it up to make the reply very strong against the capitulationist proposals put forward to liquidate the Palestinian question.

He also condemns Amman summit resolutions adding that they pose a danger to the Palestinian question. He stresses that the rejection to these liquidationist resolutions have been conducted by the rank and file of the Arab nation.

He hails the principled and constant stances assumed by gr[illegible] Al-Jamahiriyah and its supportive stand alongside the revolution raging now in occupied Palestine. He points out that the above stands taken by great Al-Jamahiriyah have made it the target of the imperialist plots so much so that it will not surprise us if a Zionist aggression takes place in a desperate attempt to force Al-Jamahiriyah to jettison its progressive and pan-Arab stances. He stresses that the armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and put an end to the Zionist occupation.

He continues that they make every endeavour to promote the armed struggle inside and outside Palestine to keep the revolution going the aim being to lay a siege to the enemy. This will be achieved through close cooperation with the progressive forces in the forefront of which being great Al-Jamahiriyah.

He calls on all Arab masses, Arab political parties and opposition to make every endeavour to stand alongside their brotherly Palestinian masses in the occupied land placing pressure on the capitulationist rulers to drop their capitulationist proposals that aim at liquidating the Palestinian question.

Velayati Speaks to JANA Upon Departure

LD281741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Our country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was in Libya at the head of a delegation, left that country this morning at the end of his 3-day visit. He was warmly and officially seen off by the deputy secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and a number of other Libyan officials.

At the conclusion of his visit to Libya, our foreign minister said in an interview with the official Libyan news agency that during his 3-day visit, he met with Libyan officials, including Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and discussed with them the expansion of bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Mr Veleyati stressed the announcement of support by the two countries for the struggle of the Muslim Palestinian people on the West Bank and in the occupied Gaza Strip. He said: The positions of the two countries with relation to their determined steadfastness in the

face of all pressures and plots of imperialism, Zionism, and reaction, are completely coordinated and there is a consensus of views that was reaffirmed officially.

Iranian Envoy, Foreign Liaison Secretary Meet

LD241705 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari discussed important issues of mutual interests with Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Aziz al-Talhi in the Libyan capital today. During the meeting, Khonsari referred to the call by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri for mass rallies around the world Friday, to support the Palestinain uprising in the occupied lands and expressed that all Muslims including Arab states would support Palestinians till the liberation of Qods [Jerusalem].

Tunisia

Restoration of Ties With Libya Announced

LD281910 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] A new step was made today by the Tunisian Republic and the Libyan Jamahiriyah toward true opening up and sincere cooperation to benefit both brotherly peoples and to help achieve Arab Maghreb unity.

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying:

The Government of the Tunisian Republic and the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, out of their consideration of the positive signs that have occurred in their relations and out of a desire to translate their mutual concern to provide constituents with fruitful cooperation in all fields, have decided to resume diplomatic relations.

Foreign Minister Meets Libya's Al-'Ubaydi

LD251619 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Tunis, 25 Dec (TAP)—[Passage omitted] During his meeting yesterday with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan representative to the Arab League, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri discussed bilateral relations and their continuous improvement. The two sides also discussed the development of relations among Arab Maghreb countries.

Mr Mestiri also received Mr Ander Sanstrom, Swedish ambassador to Tunisia, who came on a farewell visit on the occasion of concluding his mission in Tunisia.

Western Sahara

Albanian Memo Announces Recognition of SDAR

LD271148 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Algiers, 27 Dec (APS)—The Saharan Information Ministry has issued a statement announcing that the Socialist People's Republic of Albania has decided to recognize the SDAR. The statement adds that this recognition is contained in a memorandum handed to the SDAR Government. The following is the text of the memorandum:

In line with its well-known principled stance of support for peoples rights to self-determination and in view of the friendly relations that bind the Albanian and Saharan peoples, the Government of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania has decided to recognize the SDAR Government as the representative of the people of Western Sahara.

The SDAR statement says that with this new recognition by this European country, the number of countries that have recognized the SDAR has reached 70.

This act of solidarity, the statement continues, reiterates the constant support Albania has been providing to the struggling peoples such as the Saharan people for the sake of their freedom and independence.

Furthermore, it strengthens the solidarity between the Saharan people and Albania and consolidates international support for the SDAR. In the face of Morocco's obduracy and refusal to cooperate in the literal implementation of the UN and OAU resolutions, this recognition makes the best contribution to the cause of peace in Western Sahara, the SDAR statement adds.

The statement expresses the Saharan people's appreciation of this act of cordiality and solidarity and their profound gratitude to the Albanian people, party, and government wishing the Socialist People's Republic of Albania all progress and prosperity.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Eighth GCC Summit in Riyadh

Al-Faysal News Conference

LD280803 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2124 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that the Iran-Iraq war has been and still is the main concern of the GCC countries. He said that the GCC's aims in this context are clear, and it is endeavoring to find a peaceful solution to that destructive war between two Muslim neighbors who are hoped to be pillars of support to Arabs and Muslims in their principal causes.

At a news conference held this evening at the new headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in the presence of GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bisharah and a large group of representatives of Arab and international media, his royal highness added that that war does not only concern Iran and Iraq but also concerns and debilitates the strength of their neighbors and brothers in religion and faith, and has weakened the Arab nation, which is facing a Zionist invasion from its western gateway.

His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke at the beginning of the news conference and pointed out that he could not shed light on the details of the debates of the GCC Supreme Council and its resolutions. He said this could only be achieved after the conference ends.

His highness said the cause for that lies in the fact that the nature of the proceedings of the Council is continuous as it holds its sessions, tackles issues, and lays the foundations of cooperation between its members continuously.

His highness said: I can shed light on the Council's standpoints toward the main issues it tackled either on the political, security, or economic fronts. His highness said that the Council discussed the main political issues that were graciously pointed out by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, at the conference's opening session. His highness explained that, within the framework of its Arab affiliation, the primary concern of the Council is the Palestinian cause. He also said the Council had its say about this and hailed the large uprising in the occupied territories.

His hignesss pointed out that the Council's efforts come within this framework by its Arab affiliation, its membership in the Arab League, and its Arab commitments.

His highness said that within this framework, the Gulf Cooperation Council supports the Palestinian cause, the will of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian resistance; consequently, it supports this and the uprising of the brothers in the occupied territories.

His royal highness stressed the GCC member countries' concern over the Iraqi-Iranian war and their desire to find a peaceful solution to it. His royal highness said that the summit believes that the path to a peaceful solution is through the UN Security Council Resolution 598. His royal highness stressed that the GCC member countries support, as they have done in the past, UN efforts in this context. He said that the GCC member countries support the resolution and demand its implementation, as was agreed at the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman on 18 November and which has now become a united Arab stand.

He went on to say: Therefore, there is an Arab stand on the Iraq-Iran war within the framework of the Arab League, to which the GCC member countries adhere. His royal highness the foreign minister said: In the context of that commitment, and as the rest of the Arab nation, we hope that the Iranians will respond to this endeavor and international legitimacy.

His royal highness said that it was not in the interest of peace for time to elapse. His royal highness said that the danger of the war spreading and extending is a threat to security; we can see a new threat every day: whether relating to aggression against the GCC countries or some of them, or relating to effects or attacks on international shipping which would lead to the extending the war's sphere.

His royal highness continued: We can see great dangers in this and urge the international community to pay attention to it. The way to do this and to find means to resolve it is to implement Resolution 598, which was welcomed by the international community. Even Iranian officials in their statements have not objected to any of its clauses.

His royal highness added: Therefore, all that remains is implementation, which is the responsibility of the Security Council. The Gulf Cooperation Council strongly and persistently supports the Security Council in making a decision on this.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the official spokesman of the eighth summit of the leaders of the GCC member states, dealt with the security issues that were tackled by the summit of the Cooperation Council. He said that there was an agreement as far as the security strategy was concerned and that it would be referred to the summit for its approval.

His highness explained that this strategy would have a great influence on cooperation within the framework of security between the GCC member states.

His highness added that there was also cooperation on military aspects, which were fully prepared in the meetings of the chiefs of staff and the defense ministers of the GCC, and that there were limited recommendations submitted to the summit in this context.

His highness the foreign minister also dealt with the cooperation of the GCC member states in the economic and cultural sectors as well as joint action. He said that the Council has always studied the deepening of economic citizenship and the opening of greater opportunities to the citizens. In this context, some activities submitted for approval will be looked into by the committees and the ministerial council as well as its efforts toward rapprochement in policies, regimes, and procedures—a matter which would have a great return for economic cooperation.

His highness added that the Council was to discuss the opening of opportunities for activities of the private sector so that it would go hand in hand with the government sector as well as the efforts being made in this respect.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that there was visible cooperation with regard to oil matters and trade relations between the GCC community and other economic communities.

His highness concluded his speech by saying that the above outlines and sheds some light on some of the Council's concerns, which are continuous concerns, and then expressed his readinesss to answer journalists' questions.

In reply to a question on the Soviet stand vis-a-vis UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed the GCC's hope that the Security Council's unanimity on Resolution 598 would continue so that the resolution could be taken to the sphere of implementation. He stressed that the unity and cohesion of the Security Council's permanent members, who shoulder a special responsibility in the context of the Security Council and world peace and security, and their unity in issuing an implementation resolution, was essential.

His royal highness said: Our hope in the Soviet Union, in view of its being a permanent member of the Security Council which bears great and specific responsibility toward world peace and security, is that its position should be in support of issuing an implementation resolution to Resolution 598.

His royal highness said: I do not have any special information on the Soviet position except for that which has been declared. The world press has reported that there has been a change in the Soviet position to the extent of moving with other members of the Security Council in issuing an implementation resolution.

His royal highness stressed that if this information is correct then it would be positive and essential for implementing Security Council Resolution 598.

In reply to a question on the meaning of referring the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain to the International Court of Justice, his royal highness the foreign minister, the official spokesman for the eighth GCC summit conference, said that the reverberation of an agreement between the sister countries Qatar and Bahrain is not only a positive one but also comforting for the future of relations between GCC member countries.

His royal highness added: Referring the case, which is a legal case concerning boundaries, to a legitimate concern in this context, which is the International Court of Justice, is natural. In addition to being members of the GCC, the Arab League, we are members of the United Nations. Our policies are based on endorsing the UN Charter which formed this legal institution to settle these disputes.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added: These disputes do not only occur between enemies but also between brothers, especially where boundaries are concerned. If there is a problem between brothers, referring it to and accepting the judgment of the International Court of Justice, and letting other make judgment on rights, would be a compromise by some to others. His royal highness pointed out that interests and fraternity are being looked after, rights secured and guaranteed, and legitimacy is the master of law.

His royal highness concluded: I cannot see any harm done to cooperation within the context of the GCC nor within the context of the problem being Arab or Islamic. The case is a special one between two Muslim countries. His royal highness said: We are all happy, and the happiest of those present are brothers in Qatar and Bahrain, for opting for this method to deal with a border and legal case.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was asked whether there was a Gulf agreement with regard to Egypt's role in the region. His highness affirmed that the assessment of all the GCC member states of the Egyptian role in the Arab and Islamic arenas had not changed.

His highness said that the GCC member states believe in this role and considers and assesses it according to the weight it deserves.

His highness added: Egypt is the largest Arab state and at the same time has a sublime history in the Arab struggle which I do not have the opportunity to talk about. His highness affirmed that this assessment is not new but rather a continuation of the GCC member states' view of fraternal Egypt throughout history and also the hope in its capability to work in the future for the protection of the Arab nation and to make efforts that would enable Egypt to serve the Arab and Islamic causes.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal went on saying: The Iraq-Iran war issue, the expansion of reactions to it and of its circle, as well as its future threats concern the whole

Arab and Islamic body. They will undoubtedly concern Egypt as much as they concern any state whether they be states of the region or Arab and Islamic states.

His highness pointed out that anyone in the Gulf is proud of the historical role of Egypt and the future of this role.

In this context, his royal highness said that the Arab position vis-a-vis Egypt reverberated not only in the Arab arena but internationally as well. He pointed out that the existence of Arab cohesion at present in facing this war, which will threaten Arab interests in the core and paralyze the strength of the Arab nation in confronting challenges, has had great reverberations.

His royal highness analyzed the content and meaning of the custodian of the two holy mosques' remark at the opening session of the eighth GCC summit conference on the spilling over [ifrazat] of this war and its dangers. He was talking about what is happening in reality. His royal highness added: The custodian of the two holy mosques' remark was not obscure; he was talking about the danger that would result if the war spills over—the expansion of its sphere and dimensions and foreign intervention—which are matters for us all to avoid.

Regarding the Palestinian uprising actually taking place in the occupied Arab territories, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal explained that the response of the Cooperation Council to the uprising was spontaneous.

He said that this uprising has activated the non-Arab conscience. Consequently, it is not strange that the Cooperation Council is concerned about this cause because it has always been a pillar in support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle.

His highness stressed that the GCC member states have definite stances toward the Palestinian cause and that they support it with all the resources and potentialities they have—politically, morally, and materially.

His highness also said that the Palestinian uprising is proof that the Palestinian cause is not dead; it is a rightful and just cause based on the feelings of the Palestinian citizens themselves. Consequently, it cannot be ignored or disregarded.

His highness pointed out that the uprising highlights the necessity of quickly finding a settlement for the Palestinian cause and the injustice against the Palestinians.

His highness affirmed that an international conference is the real framework for discussing this cause. He reiterated the support of the GCC member states for this conference and for handling the Palestinian cause in such a way that it can be dealt with in real terms, so that peace may be achieved and the Palestinian people will be able to gain their legitimate rights.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was asked about the possibility of GCC citizens being able to move about with personal identity cards and also about joint projects between the GCC countries. His highness said these projects play a major role in the field of economic cooperation. In this connection he noted the Gulf Investment Organization, which, he said, is one of the major instruments of joint investment. He confirmed that this matter is receiving great attention from the GCC and it is a basic prop for cooperation.

His highness then passed the question over to GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah to give more details. Bisharah explained that joint projects are among the GCC's basic means of realizing its aims.

He pointed out that in the GCC's philosophy joint projects are not for commercial returns only but also a basic channel for economic cohesion and integration.

He declared that no less than 30 projects are under study by the Council's General Secretariat and by the Gulf Investment Organization. He added that shares in certain joint projects will soon be offered to GCC citizens.

He explained that the GCC General Secretariat has carried out a comprehensive survey of joint projects in the Gulf states. It became apparent that there are no less than 250 joint projects among the GCC states with a capital of $25 billion and that the smallest project has a capital of $5 million. Bisharah recalled that joint projects were among the basic decisions made at the Kuwait summit.

Bisharah talked about freedom of movement between the GCC states and said that the use of personal identity cards for travel is one of the landmarks of the GCC's general plan that will be presented within the next 3 months so that member states may study it and create the machinery and requirements for it. He noted that to realize this plan it will be necessary to install computers at member countries' airports. Bisharah said he believes the region will change considerably in the next 5 years.

With regard to the GCC's evaluation of Moroccan-Algerian relations in light of the meeting between King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, under the patronage of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd 'Abd al-'Aziz, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that the GCC welcomed this meeting. He pointed out the role played by the custodian of the two holy mosques in this meeting and the generous response expressed by His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Bendjedid and said it was highly appreciated by the GCC Supreme Council.

His royal highness said: "We hope that this beginning will continue. We, in this Council, are happy to learn of contacts between the brothers in Morocco and Algeria."

He added: "The Council's traditional role within this context is to try to bring about real Arab solidarity".

He indicated that Arab solidarity concerns the GCC, is its constant aim, and one of the matters in which the GCC feels proud to take part in all the time."

Answering a question on the visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to the Kingdom yesterday, his royal highness said the Syrian foreign minister conveyed a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques concerning the visit of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, to Syria.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal indicated that the message included a response to the talks that took place between Prince 'Abdallah and the Syrian president.

He pointed out that the aim of the crown prince's visits to several countries is to establish Arab solidarity based on the foundations laid down by the Amman summit, and to unify Arab stands.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah's visits to Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan highlighted the efforts the Saudi Government and crown prince have been making by order of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God preserve him. He pointed out that the Syrian foreign minister's visit to the Kingdom the day before yesterday was one of the results of the crown prince's visit to Syria.

Replying to a question about Iran's attitude toward the Gulf countries, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope that Iran will reciprocate the Gulf countries' desire to establish relations based on good-neighborliness, noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, and mutual respect in addition to building a solid foundation for future cooperation. "Unfortunately," he said, "we believe that the situation indicates that Iran's actions are far from the position of the Gulf countries."

Referring to the talks between the GCC and EEC, Prince Sa'ud affirmed that the GCC has dealt most seriously with the European Community. He added that the talks between the two groups are continuing, the last meeting having taken place in New York in October when ideas on reaching agreement were discussed. He said the agreement will be divided into two parts: one of which is a general agreement that will be effective immediately upon its signing at the start of the negotiations, which will cover trade relations, among other issues.

Prince Sa'ud said that there are several ideas in this regard including free trade, which were put forward by the GCC. However, all these are merely ideas for discussion and mean nothing until they become part of an agreement. He added: We are trying now to secure the approval of the GCC summit conference so that the GCC ministerial council can begin negotiations on the conclusion of such an agreement within this general framework.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed the need for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, pointing out that the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is essential for the restoration of peace in that war-torn country and to give it its right to self-determination.

He added that if the Soviets withdraw from Afghanistan, this will have an extremely positive effect on relations between the USSR and the Islamic world.

Third Session Ends

LD281203 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1147 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—The GCC leaders ended their third session at 1430 today. This session lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours, and was chaired by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Al-Faysal Statement on Session

LD281416 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, spokesman of the eighth GCC summit, has announced that the meeting approved the GCC members security strategy. His royal highness stressed that all member countries agreed on the strategy. He denied that Kuwait did not agree. He said that the strategy was submitted to the summit and that it was approved.

In a statement made after the GCC leaders' third session which ended earlier today, the foreign minister said that the GCC member countries support OPEC's recent resolutions and the propping up of prices. He said: Naturally, in addition to cooperation in the area of petroleum, especially the issues of prices and production, the summit will have a view and this will be be declared.

His royal highness said that the summit conference completed its discussion of the agenda today. The topics have been submitted for inclusion in the final resolution which will be submitted to the summit at the conference's final session tomorrow morning.

Finally, his royal highness pointed that GCC summit meetings will be held at regular intervals. The next summit will be held in the State of Bahrain.

Fourth Session Ends

LD282036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] At 2215, the leaders of the GCC member states ended their fourth working session, which they began earlier this evening under the chairmanship of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

After the session, GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bisharah, in a statement to SPA, pointed out that the leaders of the GCC member states reviewed the resolutions and the final statement prepared by the foreign ministers which will be declared at the final session tomorrow.

Foreign Ministers Meet

LD281511 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1448 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—The GCC ministerial council, which is composed of the foreign ministers of the GCC member states, began a meeting at 1730 at the Palace of Conferences under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

The council will study and review the resolutions of the GCC summit and prepare the final statement to be issued by the summit.

Final Session Previewed

LD290929 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0625 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA)—Their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC member states will later this morning hold the final session of the eighth GCC summit following the preparation of the final statement by the drafting committee.

At the beginning of the final session, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, will deliver a speech. This will be followed by the reading of the final statement by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah. The amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, will address the session in the name of Bahrain and extend an invitation to their majesties and highnesses to attend the ninth GCC summit, which will be held in Bahrain next year.

The final statement of the summit will contain the resolutions reached by the leaders of the GCC member states in light of the summit agenda, which dealt with political, economic, security, and cultural issues, in an aim to bolster cooperation and coordination among the member states in order to realize their interests and the interests of the sons of the Arabian Gulf.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and the official summit spokesman, will hold a press conference at the Palace of Conferences after the final session. He will discuss the deliberations at the eighth GCC summit and its resolutions. He will also reply to questions from journalists.

King Fahd Addresses Summit

LD291035 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0955 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Speech by Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at final session of the eighth GCC summit conference in Riyadh—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of prophets and messengers, our master and prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him. On this happy occasion—the coming of the Gulf countries' leaders to their second country and the convening of the Gulf summit conference—at this moment I would like to express the thanks of the Saudi people, government, and my own. I cannot but say that this Council has proven its existence over the days, nights, and years it has been convened. Although the Council has only been in existence for a short time, its actions and the work it has been able to accomplish over this short period of time are exemplary and have become exemplary throughout the world.

I pray from the bottom of my heart that this Council will advance and persist in its commendable work every year it convenes in one of our Gulf states. Finally, I hope that God will support everyone for the benefit of peace and Muslims. My thanks to my brothers.

Saudi-Iranian Contacts Alleged

JN281108 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Dec 87 pp 1, 23

[Rakan al-Majali dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] Over the past 2 days, the Riyadh summit has discussed political trends of the GCC states. The major issue of discussion was King Fahd's speech, which observers described as a turning point in the Gulf stand and an expression of the undeclared trends of the GCC foreign ministers, who concluded their meetings 3 days before the summit.

Reliable sources in the Saudi capital affirmed the existence of indirect contacts between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The sources added that similar contacts, direct and indirect, had been held with other Gulf states. This move took place in the wake of the Amman summit, which defined an Arab stand on the war, the Iranian aggression, and its dangers.

The same sources said that the Saudi crown prince asked Damascus during his recent visit to convey a message from the Saudi monarch to Tehran on bilateral relations and on the general situation in the Gulf. He also asked Syria to help prevent the war from expanding to the Gulf states. The Saudi message indicates that the direct Iranian aggression against Kuwait, the Gulf states' navigation, and Saudi Arabia through the Mecca incident have made the Gulf states depart from their neutrality. Therefore, the return of Gulf neutrality in this war requires that Iran stop its aggression against the Gulf states, as individual states or as a group, and cease its threats. Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran to convey the Saudi message with absolute Syrian support for this trend. After the Amman summit, Syria communicated its reservation to the Arab League on the resolution on the Iraq-Iran war. Syria affirmed that it does not denounce the Iranian aggression against Iraq, but denounces any expansion in the aggression toward the Gulf. The Syrian foreign minister went further and stated that Syria is ready to send its Army to protect the Gulf states. At the same time, he stated that Syria has not changed its stand on the war.

Regardless of the details, the trend before the Gulf summit was for the Gulf states to move out of the circle of war and the possibility of being hit by its shells. Therefore, the visit to Tehran by Faruq al-Shar' falls within a well known old Syrian trend to prevent the expansion of the war and to confine it to Iraq and Iran.

Therefore, the issue of neutrality, which is supported by Oman, Qatar, and the UAE and to which Bahrain does not object, is an indication of the nature of the progress of the summit work.

It is reiterated here in Riyadh that King Fahd did not speak on behalf of Saudi Arabia only. King Fahd's speech expressed a new stand, which is the outcome of the majority view, and which satisfied the majority as well. The speech was an expression of the Saudi stand in the first place. King Fahd delivered his improvised speech 1 hour after his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who conveyed a message from the Tehran ruler to Saudi Arabia. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also held a long telephone conversation with the Saudi monarch 24 hours before Al-Shar' arrived [in Riyadh]. Al-Asad explained the bases of the Iranian reply to the Saudi message and the guarantees offered to the Gulf states. There have also been Saudi contacts with Iran through other channels.

King Fahd's opening speech drew many reactions inside and outside the Gulf summit. Most Saudi newspapers published it with some modification. Despite these modifications, the speech constituted a change in the Saudi stand vis-a-vis Tehran. SPA transmitted without specific occasion statements by King Fahd a few hours after his speech. The statements entail modifications in criticizing Iran while maintaining the general desire to neutrality.

Some people considered the subsequent statements a modification or explanation of King Fahd's speech. Others believe that they were the result of deliberations among the GCC states. Those people also believe that the written statements given to SPA are the outcome of the Gulf stand and represent the real stand on the Gulf war.

Allegations Denied

LD282318 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh [dateline as received]—In reply to what the Jordanian AL-DUSTUR published in its Monday, 28 December 1987, issue citing what it termed "reliable sources in the Saudi capital, Riyadh," to the effect that: The custodian of the two holy mosques delivered the opening speech of the eighth summit conference of the leaders of the GCC member states 1 hour after receiving Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', whom the paper claimed was carrying a message to the Kingdom from the rulers of Tehran; that President Hafiz al-Asad had a lengthy telephone conversation with the Saudi monarch; that the majority of the Saudi press had published King Fahd's speech with some amendments; that the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, without any reason, transmitted a statement by King Fahd only hours after his speech; that this statement entailed amendments with regard to criticism of Iran; and that some regarded this statement as being an amendment to King Fahd's speech, and so forth—this is strange and false information, having no truth whatsoever. A responsible source has made a statement to the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, in which he said:

It is indeed regrettable that an Arab paper, published in a fraternal country, should publish such fabrications, entailing much intrigue, confusion, and harm. In order to refute what the paper had said, it is necessary to clarify the following facts:

First: The timing of the audience which the custodian of the two holy mosques gave to His Excellency Minister Faruq al-Shar', as reported by the paper, is untrue, as the meeting took place at midnight, that is to say, more than 5 hours after the opening ceremony of the GCC summit.

On the other hand, the message Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar' carried with him falls within the framework of consultations and talks which his royal highness the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, had with his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus.

Second: The report the paper published to the effect that President Hafiz al-Asad had a telephone conversation with his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, 24 hours prior to the visit of Faruq al-Shar' to the Kingdom is untrue.

There is nothing surprising in telephone conversations between the Saudi and Syrian leaderships at any time; such telephone contacts do take place continuously. However, the telephone conversation which the paper referred to did not take place.

Third: There is no truth in the report published by the paper to the effect that the majority of the Saudi press published the speech by King Fahd with amendments, as all the papers, in fact the entire media, published the full text of the speech by the custodian of the two holy mosques without any amendment, except with regard to one word which was wrongly transmitted in the agency's telex, and that word was "Afghanistan" instead of "ourselves." The word was corrected immediately.

Fourth: There is no truth at all in what the paper said to the effect that the statement of the custodian of the two holy mosques transmitted by the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY contained some amentments with regard to the criticism of Iran and that the statement came to correct King Fahd's speech. The speech the custodian of the two holy mosques delivered was clear and frank, with no ambiguity in its words or meaning, and did not require interpretation or amendment.

The source added: The policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in fact the policy of all GCC member states, supports dialogue as a principle. Dialogue with Iran has not ceased ever since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council. This is not surprising, as Iran is a neighboring country and is engaged in a bloody war with a fraternal country and the spillover of this war directly affects the member states of the Council. Dialogue that falls within and contributes to the efforts aimed at ending the war and preventing its expansion is not a dialogue we fear or which embarrrasses the GCC member states to announce so long as it leads to something good and beneficial to all the states in the region.

The source concluded: These are the facts the Jordanian AL-DUSTUR, for reasons unknown to us, tried to misrepresent and channel into the wrong direction. The paper should have ascertained the facts and relayed the truth, especially that its representative is among the journalists invited to cover the proceedings of the conference.

Jordan's Husayn Phones Fahd

LD282054 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1834 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan this evening.

Views on current events in the Arab arena were exchanged during the call. The Jordanian monarch voiced to his brother his wishes of success for the GCC summit and hopes that positive results to the benefit of the region and its peoples would be reached.

Report on Aid to Iran Denied

LD282312 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—Referring to THE WASHINGTON POST report of Monday, 28 December, that King Fahd said Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states would finance Iranian development projects destroyed by the war, an official spokesman told SPA that this issue was not discussed during the eighth summit of the leaders of the GCC member states, and that the report is absolutely untrue.

Bahrain

Muslim Palestinian Solidarity March Blocked

NC290713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Bahraini ruling regime has imposed stringent security measures and prevented a march by the Muslim people of Bahrain in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands. According to the Central News Unit, while the Bahraini Muslims had planned to stage a march to condemn the repressive measures of the occupied Jerusalem regime—as all Muslims in various parts of the world have done—the Bahraini police forces arrested some of the Muslim marchers and prevented the march.

PDRY

Presidium Upholds Death Sentences for 11

EA272056 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The Supreme People's Council Presidium this afternoon held its 15th ordinary session, chaired by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. At the meeting the Presidium considered a number of subjects, including the important subject of the sentences passed by the Republic's Supreme Court in connection with those convicted in Criminal Case No 3 of 1986 who were involved in the 13 January events.

In an atmosphere pervaded by a high sense of responsibility, the Presidium evaluated the progress of the great and mighty work done by all government institutions, mass organizations, and the masses of the toiling people under the leadership of the party to tackle the effects of the disaster resulting from the ill-starred 13 January conspiracy and to overcome its vestiges and destructive outcome at all economic, political, and social levels. The

Presidium stressed that the black events of the 13 January conspiracy represented the apex of a conspiracy against the revolutionary experiment and the democratic progressive regime in our country. The Presidium highly evaluated the remedies adopted by the party leadership against that situation, which were characterized by a deep humane spirit, the spirit of concern for the unity of society, the supremacy of the Constitution and the law, the maintenance of the revolutionary experience in our country, and the future of generations to come.

The Presidium held the view that despite enormous human and material losses resulting from the conspiracy, the victory of the party and the people against it was great as it represented the saving of the revolutionary experiment and progressive regime. The remedies adopted by the party and government leadership after the conspiracy was stamped out constitute clear testimony to the genuineness, depth, firmness, strength, and stability of the socialist course and the progressive regime under the wise and courageous leadership of the YSP.

Leading those remedies, which reflect the essential options of our people and our regime, was the general amnesty decree, which pardoned the greater majority of the misled people, referring the principal persons involved in the events of the bloody 13 January conspiracy to an ordinary public court. On the basis of strong faith in the Constitution and the law, and taking into consideration all guarantees and rights enshrined in the Constitution and the law, all those charged were allowed to defend themselves.

The past phase after the victory over the 13 January conspiracy showed the correctness, soundness, and wisdom of those remedies, since the general amnesty decree played an effective role in finding firm ground on which to tackle the effects of the conspiracy. The public trial by the Republic's Supreme Court of the accused persons in Criminal Case No 3 of 1986 played its role in exposing the course of treachery and conspiracy followed by the criminal, reactionary, and opportunist right which led to the disaster of the conspiracy. The trial represented the confidence of the party and the regime, their stability, and the support of the toiling masses for the YSP leadership and its correct policy. The trial was also a bright and new phenomenon among the countries of the whole developing world, since the trial proceeded according to the Constitution and the law. The accused persons, including the fugitives, enjoyed the right to defense. A number of Arab lawyers participated in the trial.

The regime did not resort to declaring a state of emergency to combat the conspiracy's effects, to forming an extraordinary or military court, to prejudicing the general public to influence the fairness of the trial, nor to exerting any form of pressure on the court or its members. The presidium believes that the trial proceeded in a normal manner and achieved its objectives as it pronounced fair judgments against the accused, who were present before it, and the fugitives, on 12 December.

In this regular session the Presidium took note of the judgments pronounced by the Supreme Court of the Republic against those involved in the 13 January conspiracy, who were accused in Criminal Case No 3 for 1986. It thoroughly discussed all circumstances surrounding the accused, who were found guilty by those judgments. Taking into account all the considerations of the Yemeni homeland's higher interests, the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen, the constitutional right of the Presidium to grant a general amnesty, pardon, or to reduce punishment based on the text of Article 94 of the Constitution; stressing the past and appropriate courses of action the regime had taken; and based on the confidence and strength that has been, is, and will remain closely attached to the YSP and the state of the toilers, the Presidium has resolved the following:

1. Ratification of the death sentences with regard to the following convicted persons: 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, Ahmad Musaid Husayn, Abdullah 'Ali Ilayway, Ahmad 'Abdullah al-Hasni, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, Faruq 'Ali Ahmad, Alawi Husayn Farhan, Hadi Ahmad Nasir, Ahmad Husayn Musa, and Mubarak Salim Ahmad.

2. Commuting of death sentences to 15 years imprisonment with regard to the following convicted persons: Muhammad 'Abdullah al-Batani, Sulayman Nasir Masud, Salih Husaynal-Zawari, Sulayman Ahmad Qays, Abdullah Mansur 'Ali, Salim 'Ali Salih Qatn, Hamid Ahmad Lamlas, Musaid Salih Abdullah, Ahmad 'Ali al-Qashabari, Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, Awad Nasir al-Jahmah, Salih Musaid Husayn, Muhammad Ahmed Salih, Mubarak Nasir Salim Sa'id, Muhammad Ahmad Haydarah al-Shanmbah, Nasir Farhan al-Shaybah, Nasir Muhammad 'Ali Shanab, Ahmad Muhammad Awad al-'Aqil, Salim 'Ali Ahmad Dabi, Mahdi Muhammad Hadi al-Ghuli, Muhammad Mubarak Marzuq, Al-Qabili Abu Bakr Muqbil, Muhammad 'Abd al-Nabi Salih, and Muhammad Salih Miskin.

3. Reduction of the 15-year sentence passed on Anis Hasan Yahya to 7 years.

4. Exemption of the following convicted persons from serving the remainder of the prison terms to which they were sentenced, and order for their release: Farid Muhammad Barakat and Shayif Qasim 'Ali.

With these resolutions, declared by the Presidium according to its constitutional and legal powers regarding the results of the trial of those involved in the 13 January conspiracy, the Presidium hereby calls on all the masses of the people to close the page on the effects of the abominable conspiracy and consign it to history. It calls on the people to direct all energy and strength toward

solving the problems of economic and social construction, and to implement the tasks of the economic and social plans of the third year of the Third 5-Year Plan.

The Presidium also took note, at its current session, of the rest of the items on its agenda, and adopted the necessary resolutions.

Commuted Sentences Urged

PM231149 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Confirm to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Inclination in Aden To Commute Sentences"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources in London expect the PDRY Government to reconsider the sentences passed earlier this week. Those sentenced include former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, 36 of his ministers, and senior advisers and aides, all of whom were condemned to be executed by firing squad.

The sources said that contacts made over the past few days have included cables from Arab and international jurist associations and establishments, as well as direct telephone conversations with PDRY leader Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the ruling YSP. Especially noteworthy are the contacts made by YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Other conversations have been initiated by Arab leaders, but these have not been revealed. Furthermore, socialist states strongly linked to the PDRY have unanimously agreed that the sentences announced should instead be commuted and even reconsidered. All this opens the door for the Yemeni leadership to review the verdicts, especially since the decisions have not yet been endorsed by Presidum Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

The sources added that the Soviet Union in particular, and the other states in the Eastern bloc have indicated in their contacts with the PDRY that insistence on carrying out the sentences would close the door to any national reconciliation and a settlement to the situation in the PDRY. [passage omitted]

YSP Political Bureau Nominations Announced

LD282048 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Summary] The Central Committee met this morning under the chairmanship of the YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid. "The Central Committee resolved to nominate the following as full members of the Political Bureau: Dr 'Abd-Allah Ahmad al-Khamiri, Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, and Muhammad Haydar Masdus. The committee also nominated as candidate members of the Political Bureau Dr (Sayf Sa'il Khalid), (Haytham Qasim Tahir), and (Salim Muhammad Jubran)."

Ramadan Meets Jordan's Transportation Minister

JN281838 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Ahmad Dakhqan, Jordanian transportation minister, at noon today. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and the prospects for their promotion in all fields. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Hamzah, transportation and communications minister, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Sudanese Interior Minister Departs 24 Dec

JN241610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, Sudanese deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today after a 3-day visit to Iraq. The Sudanese minister held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to promote them.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Shelling of Boat Denied

JN281515 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims that Iranian coastal artillery set ablaze a boat near Iraq's Al-'Umayyah jetty. A military spokesman told INA today that neither the jetty nor an Iraqi boat were shelled. He said this claim is part of the lies which the Iranian regime issues occasionally to feed its propaganda machine and to conceal the blows dealt to it by the Iraqi forces.

Communique No 2,967

JN281724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,967 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With overwhelming superiority over our apostate enemies, our brave Armed Forces continue their heroic confrontation of the Zionist Khomeyniites, inflicting new losses on them daily. The results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. One of our courageous units in the II Army Corps central sector spotted an enemy group estimated at 40 scoundrels attempting to approach our forward positions. Our brave soldiers immediately confronted the group with various weapons, killing more than 15 personnel, wounding others, and forcing the remainder to flee. In another area in the sector, an observation post and an infantry position were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

2. Three enemy personnel were killed and four infantry positions were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Two infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Two enemy vehicles and one infantry position were set ablaze and destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One observation post was destroyed and 10 GC rifles, 2 RPG-7 launchers, and a quantity of hardware and equipment which the enemy had left behind in previous battles were found and taken to our positions in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. One single-barreled machine gun emplacement was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Yesterday, three enemy gunboats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. The port's brave force pounded them with its weapons and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1987

Military Maneuvers in Golan, Eastern Galilee

NC281524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] According to the NNA correspondent in Hasbayya, the Israeli forces began wide-scale military maneuvers in the occupied Syrian [Golan] Heights and in eastern Galilee this morning. Heavy artillery and tanks are participating in these maneuvers. The sound of successive explosions is being clearly heard in the southern areas.

Arrivals from the border area say that columns of Israeli armored cars, estimated at 170 vehicles, were seen heading for the Golan Heights via the Dan settlement road early this morning. They added that military helicopters accompanied these movements and that warplanes flew over the area.

Rabin Confirms 'About 900' Arrested in Riots

TA281901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has confirmed that about 900 people were arrested in the wake of the disturbances in the territories. His remarks were in response to a motion to the agenda by Communist Party Knesset Member Tawfiq Zayyad concerning the new prison at Al-Zahiriyah, south of Hebron. The defense minister said that about 300 prisoners are currently being held at the Al-Zahiriyah lock-up.

In a separate motion to the agenda the defense minister denied that Israel tried to check the possibility of a cease-fire with the PLO in Lebanon. Rabin said Israel's policy continues to be not to negotiate with the PLO. The motion was presented by Knesset Member Mati Peled of the Progressive List for Peace and was based on a report in the Lebanese weekly AL-YAWM AL-SABI'.

20 More Reported Detained

TA291333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The security forces are continuing to carry out detentions in Judaea and Samaria. Owing to overcrowded conditions in the prisons and the Al-Zahiriyah detention center south of Hebron, however, the people who were detained over the last few days are being held in detention rooms in the regional police stations. Our correspondent Moti Amir visited the Al-Zahiriyah detention camp and filed this report:

[Begin recording] Over the last few nights, the security forces have rounded up another 20 people suspected of instigation and rioting during the disturbances in Samaria. The detainees were transported blindfolded to a detention tent in the Nabulus Military Government premises where they spent the night. The next morning they were sent to detention rooms in the various police stations in the area. Approximately 600 are currently detained in the overcrowded Al-Fari'ah prison in Nabulus. The security forces opened another detention camp near the town of Al-Zahiriyah in view of the crowded prison conditions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Military Court Tries Detainees for Rioting

TA281252 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Seventy local residents stand trial in the Gaza military court today on charges of disturbances and instigation. Twenty of them have already been tried. The trial of 10 of those was put off and the rest were convicted following guilty pleas. They will serve sentences of 3 to 6 months in jail and received additional suspended imprisonment terms to guarantee that they do not engage in rioting for the coming 5 years. Fines of hundreds of shekels were also imposed on them. This was reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

Army Judge Comments on Trials

TA290634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Brigadier Amnon Strassnov, the Army's judge advocate general, says the speedy trials of people involved in riots and violence in the territories does not mean there will be any shortcuts in prisoners' rights or the due process of law. Our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami interviews Brig Amnon Strassnov:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Brig Strassnov, close to 1,000 people are due to come up before the courts in connection with the disturbances that have been in the territories. A lot has been said about speedy trials for this. What exactly does that mean? How long is the process likely to take before all these 1,000 people will in fact have been put on trial?

[Strassnov] First of all, I am not sure about the fact that all the 1,000 people will be brought to trial. First of all, there is an investigation and a file is being prepared, and afterward the military prosecutors will decide whether there is enough evidence to bring the suspect before the court. There have been a lot of rumors and talks about speedy trials. First of all, it's here to mention that even the 6th Amendment of the United States Constitution speaks about speedy and open trials. Speedy is in that sense that it won't take long from the start of the trial until the end of it. In no way there will be shortcuts in the procedures. The rights of the accused will be very, very severely kept.

[Ben-'Ami] There has also been talk of stiffer sentences than usual in these cases. What sort of sentences could people be facing, and, in fact, should they be as stiff as you are talking? There are many cases of teenagers 14-15 years old being brought up for throwing stones perhaps.

[Strassnov] I think any court in the United States, in Israel, or in Switzerland is obliged to respond to such a phenomena, and when this phenomena is going so vastly, to such a large extent, the courts are called upon to give a certain response. That does not mean that people or youngsters, as you mentioned, will be tried for years of imprisonment. That's not the case. By the way, the maximum penalty for throwing stones on a moving vehicle is 20 years, and that's the same law that applies also in Israel. The courts never reach this high sentence. The maximum penalty that one judge in the court has the authority to impose is 5 years. Even this sentence isn't the maximum that the courts use to impose. I will say that the sentence goes from 3 months up to 1 year and a little above for severe offenses.

[Ben-'Ami] You talked about jail sentences, but there has also been a lot of talk about possible deportations, mass deportations even. What exactly is the situation with regard to deportation: What is being considered, what sort of numbers, when?

[Strassnov] I won't reply to this question, but I will speak about it generally. There are no intentions for mass deportations. Every deportation in the past, in the future, and in the present time is checked on an individual selective basis. [end recording]

Brig Strassnov also said that before deportation there were a series of steps taken to check that public order and security in the territories had been breached, and in any event the person facing deportation had the right to appeal to a military appeals board and ultimately to the Supreme Court.

Palestinian Notables Meet With Foreign Consuls

TA231500 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Dec 87 p 3

[AL-QUDS correspondent report]

[Text] Jerusalem—A meeting lasting one and a half hours was held yesterday at the National Hotel which included all foreign consuls accredited to the holy city. A representative of the Red Cross and some 20 Palestinian notables from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip participated as well.

At the meeting, which was held at the Palestinian's initiative, the reality of the situation witnessed in the occupied territories was explained to the heads of the diplomatic corps. The heads of the diplomatic corps expressed understanding of the Palestinian viewpoint in this connection.

The Palestinian notables asked the consuls to intercede with their governments in order to study the possibility of pressuring the Israeli Government to stop its practices in the occupied territories. This was stated in a memorandum read by the priest 'Awda al-Rantisi at the meeting.

The Palestinian notables requested the implementation of the Geneva Charters that ensure protection of civilian rights under occupation. They called for the dispatch of international forces to supervise the affairs of the Palestinian people under occupation until the convocation of an international conference.

The Palestinian notables' memorandum affirmed the PLO's legitimacy and status as sole representative of the Palestinian people. They called for PLO participation in the international peace conference on equal footing with the other concerned parties in the Middle East conflict.

The memorandum accused Israel of placing obstacles to the convocation of such a conference and with attempting to create substitutes for the PLO.

The Italian consul expressed his country's concern at the present developments in the occupied territories and stressed that the only solution to the Middle East crisis lies in an end to Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab lands and the convocation of an international conference. In his remarks, the Italian consul reiterated his country's position in support of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The French consul said that his country is following up the events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with interest and concern.

The U.S. consul refuted claims to the effect that Washington is impeding the convocation of the proposed international conference for establishing peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that the Reagan administration is working by various means to find a compromise solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would be acceptable to both sides and would constitute an opening to negotiations.

Arabs Fired Following Solidarity Strike

TA281522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Dozens of Israeli Arab workers were dismissed because they took part in last week's solidarity strike despite their employers' warnings. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the municipality of 'Akko fired 10 temporary workers. The other workers who were fired had been employed in construction and services. The chairman of the committee of Arab local councils announced that he would request the assistance of the Histadrut in this matter.

Peace Day Leaders Call Police 'Provocative'

TA242038 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The secretariat of the committee of leaders of the Arab local authorities convened in Shefar'am today to discuss the lessons which can be drawn from the strike

in the Arab sector this week. The members of the secretariat decided to condemn the irregular phenomena which took place on the day of the strike. According to them, those responsible for the violent acts are elements who do not represent the Arab population in Israel. Our correspondent 'Amos Karmeli was in Shefar'am.

[Begin recording] The conclusion of most of the speakers in Shefar'am, during the lesson-drawing meeting by the peace day organizers was: We are not to blame. We are not to blame for the riots, the stonethrowing, or the clashes with the police. Who is to blame then? They are a small group of extremists as well as the police. Why the police? They say that with its increased presence, reinforced by the Border Police and equipment for the dispersal of demonstrations, the police forces were provocative and inflamed spirits. [passage omitted] [end recording]

IDF To Launch Special Anti-Riot Training

TA282026 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The IDF will launch a special program to train troops in patrolling tasks, such as the dispersal of demonstrations. The training will be carried out in military training camps and will be part of the overall regular training program. This was stated today by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron during a news conference in Tel Aviv.

The chief of staff said that 21 local residents were killed and 179 wounded, and 41 IDF soldiers were slightly injured in the recent unrest in the territories. [passage omitted]

Rabin Views Proposed 'Moratorium on Violence'

TA271541 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by Eli Tavor]

[Excerpts] "If the PLO says it will renounce terror if arrests in the territories stop, I will be prepared to listen on condition that we hear such an announcement from the PLO itself. I do not want any intermediaries, I want announcements," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday.

Rabin made these remarks at the "Forum for Political Discussions," a dovish Labor Party body which met yesterday at Bet Berl in Zofit. The meeting was held in response to reports that PLO members in the territories had proposed a "moratorium on violence" on the condition that several PLO activists who had been detained before the recent unrest in the territories be released.

The charges were made by David Ish-Shalom of "The Orient for Peace" movement. He maintains contacts with Palestinians in the territories identified with the PLO and is one of the Israelis who met with Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva.

Ish-Shalom argued that the riots in the territories had erupted, among other reasons, due to the arrest of two of the PLO's uncrowned leaders in the territories: Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem, and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Union; and the deportation of a third: Akram Haniyah, a correspondent for AL-FAJR.

"If the administrative detainees are released, the Palestinian people will be prepared to stop the acts of hostility for 3 months," Ish-Shalom said. The defense minister reacted by saying: "I have made numerous similar experiments in the past. When I was prime minister Mati Peled came to me with a proposal: The PLO would be prepared to stop hijacking planes if I did so and so. I said: 'All right.' A short time later Mati Peled came back to me and said that the PLO could not keep its promise."

Rabin went on to say that 6 weeks ago Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah had proposed to him that if administrative detentions in the territories stopped the PLO would cease terror. "I told him: 'go and make an agreement with them,'" Rabin said, "but he was not capable of concluding one."

Addressing Ish-Shalom who conveyed the suggestion of the PLO supporters in the territories, Rabin said: "You make the proposal?! I would like to hear it from the PLO itself. Let the PLO announce this publicly. The fact that you are making the announcement hardly commits you." [passage omitted]

Rabin rejected allegations that the IDF's heavy-handed conduct in the Gaza Strip had driven the Palestinians to Khomeyniism. "Islamic jihad in Gaza means 'Arafat, not Iran; 'Arafat is running it. The religious factor has not overcome the nationalist factor. To wit, 50 percent of the Iraqi Army soldiers fighting Iran are Shi'ites." [passage omitted]

Deportations To Be Used 'Whenever Necessary'

TA291123 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Jerusalem has received a U.S. request that Arabs from the territories not be expelled. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initial reaction to the above, given a short while ago, was that the deportation process should be used whenever necessary. It is not great fun, said Shamir in reaction to the U.S. request, adding that we will take action as we see fit.

The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said that Israel is taking action to restore calm in the territories. This action will continue, using the legal measures at Israel's disposal. Spokesman Ehud Gol said that the decision is Israel's alone, adding that no decision has yet been made.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 29 December reports: "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that he has informed the United States that Israel has deported instigators from Judaea and Samaria in the past and will continue to use this measure as warranted. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the defense minister was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He was reacting to the U.S. demand that Israel avoid issuing deportation orders, and added that he had told the Americans we would do whatever is necessary.

Jerusalem has received a U.S. request that Israel refrain from deporting inhabitants of the territories who were involved in disturbances. The request was made last night in a meeting between John Wilcox, U.S. assistant secretary of state, [name and title as heard] and 'Oded 'Eran, Israeli Embassy charge d'affaires."]

Shomron Sees 'Good Chance' for Calm Fatah Day

TA290553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, believes there is a good chance that Friday's anniversary of the founding of Fatah will pass quietly. Gen Shomron says that while interested parties may seek to start trouble in the territories, the large Army presence and the arrests that have been made of inciters should deter further widespread disturbances. Talking to reporters in Tel Aviv, the chief of staff also said that the Army had learned lessons from the recent wave of violence, and these will be passed on to a special unit set up some weeks ago to explain riot control techniques and equipment to soldiers at IDF colleges and training bases. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The chief of staff says he hopes that eventually the Border Police would take over responsibility for riot control in the territories. The Army is already directing some of its recruits to the force to help increase Border Police numbers. The Army's job, he says, is to prepare for war against regular armies, and there is no intention of turning it into a police force. And while the IDF has responsibility now for maintaining security and law and order in the territories, it's something it does not do happily. It's not healthy for us, and certainly contributes nothing to the knowledge which would help us win wars, he said.

Gen Shomron admitted that the Army had been surprised at the scope and violence of the disturbances, but said a major effort had been made to avoid shooting. Our aim was to restore order, but we warned every soldier to avoid shooting unless there was a very real danger to life. We are well aware that every death or injury would only play into the hands of inciters and spark off more rioting. The chief of staff said that 21 Arabs had been killed and 179 wounded, while 41 soldiers and 27 Israeli civilians were hurt.

The troops in the Gaza Strip had been boosted threefold to deal with the disturbances, while the force in Judaea and Samaria was more than doubled. He believes that the large force still in the areas, together with the arrests that have been made of many of the riot inciters, will be a major contribution to restore the calm in the territories. In addition, says the chief of staff, while the vast majority of Arab residents there may not love us, they do want to have a quiet life. I am sure they will remember the suffering and the damage that street riots brought them, and will take this into account should inciters again try to bring them onto the streets.

Gen Shomron also revealed that 900 people have been arrested since the start of the rioting. However, he says, all will go through due process of law and will be brought to court only if there is sufficient cause to prosecute them.

AL-FAJR Calls for End to 'Iron Fist' Policy

TA281145 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
24 Dec 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The International Resolution"]

[Text] The UN Security Council resolution expressing "deep regret" over the Israeli measures in the occupied land, which was adopted yesterday morning with 14 votes in favor and a U.S. abstention, did not, as expected, constitute an explicit condemnation of these measures, due to the biased U.S. position which for 3 consecutive days and until the very last moment hinted at the possible use of the veto.

This resolution, which reflects the nature of the pressure and haggling conducted in UN corridors by the United States and Israel in their efforts to delay and neutralize the resolution's impressive international effect, did, however, eventually include a clear and explicit call to the UN secretary general to present recommendations on ways to guarantee the safety and protection of our people under Israeli occupation by the 20th of next month. This is the first time that such a call has been made, despite its basis in international agreements, including the Geneva agreements of 1949, which defines the relationship between peoples under occupation and the occupation authorities.

Israel tried with all its diplomatic might to prevent this resolution from being passed by relying on its own "interpretation" of what is taking place in the occupied lands. This interpretation failed to receive any backing

or acceptance from the entire world, including the United States, whose UN representative, while abstaining in the vote, was forced to reject this Israeli interpretation.

Will the Israeli authorities finally abide by the sense and meaning of this international resolution, which expresses the will of the world's governments and nations to protect the security and safety of defenseless citizens? Will Israeli officials provide all the facilities for implementing international laws and norms in this respect? And will they put an end to the so-called "iron fist" policy, which is diametrically opposed to the rights and aspirations of nations for justice and peace?

Present indications affirm that so far these officials are not concerned about any international resolution or will. Upon returning from the United States, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin uttered further threats about adopting "tougher measures," as if the international "regret" for the victims of the occupied land and for the daily suffering of its residents has no meaning whatsoever.

Egypt To Give Medical Aid to West Bank, Gaza

TA271459 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 87 pp 1, 13

[Report from Cairo by special correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] Egypt will send trucks with medicines and medical teams to treat people wounded in the incidents in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Over the weekend, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni relayed an official Egyptian request to allow two trucks with medicines and two medical teams to cross through the border terminal at Rafah. In its request, Egypt describes its intentions as extending "humanitarian-philanthropic aid" to the people wounded in the incidents.

If Jerusalem gives its approval, the Egyptians intend to send the aid and medical teams as early as today.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's special political adviser, said yesterday: Egypt has been closely following events in the territories and has been holding discussions with the PLO and Arab countries. A resolution has been passed to adopt measures of protest against Israel, but there is as yet no decision to recall Ambassador Basyuni to Egypt.

Yesterday, Al-Baz conferred with Alignment Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah who is currently visiting Cairo. Among other things, Mubarak's adviser said the following: "I did not expect Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to adopt such a radical attitude. Where is the peace-seeking Labor Party of which Minister Rabin is a member? I am very angry. I do not know what other measures we will adopt, but we will not be able to sit idly by in the face of Israel's harsh conduct.

Al-Baz further told MK Darawshah that there is no sense in Israel sending a minister to Egypt to explain the situation or to try to dispel the tension between Cairo and Jerusalem. "What can an Israeli minister 'sell' us? We know the facts, there is nothing to explain." [passage omitted]

'Anti-Semitic' Press Item Causes 'Shock'

TA281449 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 87 p 12

[Report by Ze'ev Ofiri]

[Excerpts] "The Talmud contains a call on Jews to destroy the world, mix the races, and maintain the purity of the Jewish race by imposing a heavy hand on the world's economy and media and holding them in bondage in the service of Zionism." This is stated in an anti-Semitic article published over the weekend in the Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR. [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday expressed its shock about the article. "The prime minister has on more than one occasion cautioned the Egyptians and asked them to lower the anti-Israeli tone in the Egyptian press, but these requests were heeded only for a short period of time. This arouses a great deal of concern, especially because the line adopted by the Egyptian press is overseen by the Egyptian Government."

Egypt's Ghali on Effect of Riots on Relations

TA261404 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by Yosi 'Abadi; in English; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abadi] Good day to you, Mr Ghali.

[Ghali] Yes, good morning.

['Abadi] First, what is the connection, if there is any connection, between the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt?

[Ghali] There is a connection. First of all, we call it not Judaea and Samaria, but the occupied territories. Secondly, I believe that the connection here is that, according to the treaty which was concluded, we were supposed to have negotiations concerning the future of the occupied territories. And according, again, to the treaty which was concluded between Egypt and Israel, there

was supposed to be a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the creation of a provisional Palestinian government, and nothing has been applied.

So there is, we see, the responsibility concerning the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, there is an Arab dimension of the Egyptian policy. We feel that there is a solidarity between Egypt and the Palestinian people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We don't believe that there is a relation. [sentence as heard]

['Abadi] But are you sure there is a connection between the riots and a settlement, an arrangement, a political arrangement?

[Ghali] Of course, the fact that nothing has been done during the last 20 years! You have a people who have been humiliated and frustrated for 20 years under military occupation, without civilian rights, without political rights, and it is normal that you will have this kind of revolt. [passage omitted]

['Abadi] How will the recent events affect the relations between Egypt and Israel?

[Ghali] Certainly it complicates the relations between Egypt and Israel, because it is an obstacle to peace. Our goal is to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace—a just peace in the Middle East. This was the purpose of the whole peace process, and this was the real purpose of the treaty which was concluded between Egypt and Israel.

['Abadi] But practically, will it affect the relations?

[Ghali] Certainly, it affects the relations. How come that you will have what has happened against the Palestinians and this cannot have an effect on the relations between Egypt and Israel?

['Abadi] Did you think at one time during the demonstrations to call back, for example, the ambassador?

[Ghali] No, we are not discussing about the practical details. We are now just discussing about the general principles.

['Abadi] What kind of measures does Egypt intend to take?

[Ghali] We are in contact with the Israeli Government, and we are trying to pursue the Israeli Government to take a more constructive position concerning the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We are hoping that a new peace process could be adopted, or could be resumed so that we can just find a peaceful solution to the Palestinian people, the Palestinian problem.

['Abadi] Yes. The deputy of the prime minister in Israel, Mr Levi, said that it seems that Egypt holds the peace treaty as hostage to the Israeli behavior.

[Ghali] No, I have not listened to what he said, but I just want confirm to you that there is certainly a linkage between the relations between Egypt and Israel and the problem of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

['Abadi] Mr Ghali, Egypt condemned Israel on the way Israel treated the demonstrators in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But can't you understand Israel's need to calm down the situation? Didn't you expect that such a behavior can happen?

[Ghali] We don't believe that you will calm down the situation by using bullets among children, but you will calm down by beginning a new peace process and changing, giving political liberties for the Palestinians who have been during 20 years under the military occupation. [passage omitted]

['Abadi] Does Egypt treat riots in other ways?

[Ghali] This is completely different. We are Egyptians with Egyptians. In your case you are Israelis with Palestinians. This is a completely different (?thing). You are binded by a different convention, the Geneva Convention, concerning the occupied territories, which you have not respected during the last 20 years.

['Abadi] Do you really expect that the Israeli Government will change its policy under the pressure of riots?

[Ghali] We are hoping that the Israelis would change as we have tried this during the last 10 years, asking from the different Israeli Governments to take a positive attitude concerning the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

['Abadi] Riots can contribute to a peace arrangement?

[Ghali] By deed this riot is a kind of advertisement, it is trying to create an awareness to your government and to your public opinion that you cannot continue with 2 million Palestinians under a military rule. [passage omitted]

['Abadi] In other words, we understand that you encourage such demonstrators in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Ghali] We are encouraging the Israeli Government to take into consideration the Palestinian reality.

['Abadi] Mr Ghali, we thank you very much for the interview.

[Ghali] I thank you very much. I am sorry the line was not clear.

['Abadi] Thank you.

Egypt's Al-Baz Interviewed; Visit Possible

TA241026 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
24 Dec 87 p 5

[Report on an interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Mubarak's political adviser, by Amira Hasan; date, place not given]

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, yesterday denounced Israel's policy in the occupied territories. In an exclusive interview with HADASHOT the adviser said that the Israeli Government's obduracy has proven that it is not interested in peace. Dr al-Baz said he may visit Israel next month.

Al-Baz: "Egypt wants to bring peace to the Middle East. It wants to put an end to the repression and wars in the region. This peace will not arrive on a silver platter. If there is no movement on the issue and if Israel continues to hesitate there will be more casualties and bloodshed. It is impossible to continue with the status quo, because it is impossible to continue with the occupation, the repression, and settlements while ignoring the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The peace between Israel and Egypt is part of a comprehensive process with the entire Arab world, and for it to succeed the Palestinian problem must be solved.

"The uprising and the events in the occupied territories show that the Palestinian problem cannot be pushed into the corner. If Israel annexes the territories it will thereby forgo its democratic character and the idea of the Zionist state."

Concerning Syria, Al-Baz said there were differences of opinion regarding the methods, but not the goal: "Syria wants peace and an international conference." Regarding Egyptian-PLO relations the adviser said: "Relations have been good and will continue to be so. We will not agree to Israel intervening in our relations with the PLO, just as we will not intervene in Israel's internal affairs."

Al-Baz hinges his hope on the peace movements in Israel: "Even though they constitute only a small percentage of the population, their existence is vital for peace." He asks how is it possible for a people who knew repression and torture in Europe to repress the Palestinian people now. Al-Baz said he is willing to visit Israel soon and to speak with every Israeli who wants to achieve peace. This would be an acceptance of an invitation by Knesset Member Darawshah. It is possible that the visit will take place next month.

Soviet Mideast Conference Stand 'Hardened'

TA291500 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
29 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The Soviet Union has hardened its stand on the political process in the Middle East, and it refuses to accept the U.S. condition for an international conference. From reports reaching Israel it has been learned that the Soviet Union has gone back on the flexible political formulas it presented in the Peres-Shevardnadze meeting in New York over PLO representation and the powers to be invested in the conference.

The Kremlin leaders presented their stand on the issue in talks they held recently with King Husayn in Moscow. According to reports, they have now returned to their previous positions, namely that the PLO or representatives appointed by it will participate in the conference, and that the conference will have the right of veto. The United States and Foreign Minister Peres flatly oppose these conditions.

Shamir Announces Intention To Run in Elections

TA251050 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
25 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Ze'ev Ofiri]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will soon inform Likud ministers that he intends to head the Likud in the next elections. Shamir consulted his family and associates before making the decision, which he announced 2 days ago in a closed academic forum. Shamir said: "I realize that the situation requires me to continue heading the Likud in the next elections in order to prevent struggles within Herut, and also because the political issue will be at the center of the next election campaign."

Shamir's associates, who welcomed the decision, noted that now there will be no confrontation over the party leadership. One of them said: "We pressured the prime minister to decide and to make a final announcement on whether he intends to head the Likud list. We are happy that he agreed and has decided to make his intention public."

Al-Rifa'i on Visit to Moscow, 'Uprising'

JN251304 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has emphasized the importance of the visit by His Majesty King Husayn to the Soviet Union. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Zayd al-Rifa'i said his majesty's meetings and talks with the Soviet leaders gave this visit a distinctive importance. I can say it was a successful, historic visit which entrenched the relations of friendship and respect between the two friendly countries, he said.

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i added that his majesty's talks with Soviet leader Gorbachev and with President Gromyko as well as the talks between members of the accompanying Jordanian delegation and the Soviet officials showed complete agreement on viewpoints, particularly on the Middle East issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i asserted that the coming phase will witness conslidation of bilateral relations in all areas, particularly political, economic, trade, cultural, and scientific areas. He said: The Jordanian-Soviet agreement to form a joint cooperation committee offers practical proof that the Jordanian and Soviet leaders are interested in enhancing bilateral relations on one hand and bolstering Arab-Soviet relations on the other.

In his statement, Prime Minister al-Rifa'i lauded the prominent status enjoyed by His Majesty King Husayn. He commended the high appreciation of his Arab and international roles by the Soviet leaders and peoples.

Regarding the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territories, Prime Minister al-Rifa'i said: We greet the kinfolk's uprising against occupation. As His Majesty King Husayn said, we support the Palestinian people with all our resources and capabilities. He pointed out that this uprising affirms the need for the efforts of all concerned parties. He added that these parties must shoulder their responsibilities to bring about a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement in this region by holding an international conference for peace to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and settle all aspects of the Palestine question.

Al-Rifa'i Reportedly Meets Lebanon's Junblatt

JN282115 Doha QNA in Arabic 1910 GMT
28 Dec 87

[Text] Amman, 28 Dec (QNA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with Walid Junblatt, Lebanese public works minister and PSP leader, today. They discussed developments in the Lebanese arena and followed up the implementation of the Amman summit resolutions regarding consolidation of efforts to realize accord among the disputing Lebanese parties.

Junblatt arrived in Amman earlier today on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. It is noteworthy that Jordan is currently making efforts to reconcile the various parties to the conflict in Lebanon with the aim of resolving the Lebanese problem which is more than 12 years old.

USSR Reportedly Offers MIG-29 Aircraft

JN281559 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
27 Dec 87 p 21

[Text] King Husayn has brought with him a very attractive offer from the Soviet Union on purchasing a group of MIG-29 aircraft. The offer is being considered and discussed. Sources close to the Jordanian monarch say he leans toward accepting the offer, especially since he has become certain that the United States is not serious about supplying him with the sophisticated fighter planes he needs.

Dudin on Response to Israeli Deportations

JN270816 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Dec 87, pp 1, 3

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan will do all it can to foil any Israeli attempt to deport Palestinians from the occupied territories to the East Bank, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said Saturday.

Referring to recent statements made by the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Dudin said Israel "is not ruling out expulsion from its list of violent oppressive measures" against the Palestinian population under its occupation rule.

"We may not be able to do much about the rest of the Israeli oppressive measures," Mr. Dudin said. "But when it comes to evicting people and throwing them out (to the East Bank), we will have to do our best to thwart these attempts."

Mr. Dudin's remarks to the JORDAN TIMES echoed a statement issued by a spokesman for the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. In the statement issued on Thursday and carried by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the spokesman rejected Israeli threats against the Palestinians of "oppressive measures including deportation."

"The Jordanian government, while asserting the rights of all citizens in the occupied territories in holding to their land, declares it will take appropriate measures to foil any act of deportation to the eastern part of the Kingdom from the occupation authorities," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Mr. Dudin said he would not "go into the methods" Jordan would use to foil possible Israeli expulsions of Palestinians, but that "we will definitely take our own measures."

The minister said that threats similar to those made by Rabin were also coming from the Israeli military and were being published in the press. Mr. Dudin described these statements as part of the "the general attitude of both the Israeli military and officials." He said that the two dominant parties in the Israeli coalition government—Likud and Labour—were supporting such measures. He noted that the Israeli defence minister was from the Labour Party.

Mr. Dudin said that rather than escalating its harsh practices against the civilian population in the occupied territories, Israel "should do some serious thinking about withdrawal" from the occupied lands. "There should be a change in attitude...towards accepting the principle of land for peace."

He said that the Palestinians under Israeli occupation "will always be able, one way or the other, to express their frustration and anger" in the face of Israel's denial of their basic human rights. [passage omitted]

Mr. Dudin deplored the U.S. position vis-a-vis Israel's response to the Palestinian uprising and the American abstention on a Security Council resolution expressing regret at Israel's measures. Mr. Dudin described the resolution as "diluted from a strong condemnation to a mere regret."

Referring to Washington's statements that it was trying to seek to end the cycle of violence Mr. Dudin asked: "How can we believe the U.S. can still play an acceptable role in the area in the light of its stands? We regret the American position." [passage omitted]

King's IZVESTIYA Interview, USSR Visit Viewed

JN281210 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Dec 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Dealing With Trust and Sincerity"]

[Text] When relations between two parties are based on mutual trust and profound respect and understanding, it is natural for them to become stronger with time, deepening and expanding to include all fields. Jordanian-Soviet relations began on the bases of trust, respect, and understanding. King Husayn's visit to Moscow has not only affirmed this fact but added another important dimension, the Jordanian and Soviet sides' eagerness to continue cooperation and understanding and to create unlimited horizons for promoting these relations, as his majesty said in his statement to IZVESTIYA, which published it the day before yesterday.

Reading his majesty's comments puts before the observer the reality and volume both of the successes of the visit and the agreement on most, if not all, of the topics raised. Apart from the Soviet Government's warm welcome to his majesty and the delegation accompanying him and his majesty's talks—especially with leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which were held on the basis of deep-rooted, good bilateral relations—his majesty described his feeling in Moscow while accorded all this hospitality and shown all this trust and sincerity by saying: I feel as if we were at home.

Such a clear and human expression means a great deal to us as we harbor every respect for the Soviet stands supporting our causes. It also means a great deal to the Soviet friends, who support and back these causes out of their conviction that they are just and their awareness of the size of the dangers, challenges, and plots posed to them.

In his statement to IZVESTIYA, His Majesty King Husayn summed up the results of his visit to Moscow with a direct and explicit statement when he said the visit helped consolidate mutual trust. This consolidation maintains the Jordanian-Soviet and the Arab-Soviet relations' strength and comprehensiveness, about which we are all concerned. It also contributes toward rallying real friends, about whom we feel reassured and with whom we deal confidently in light of the current vicious onslaught against our nation—an onslaught aimed against our land, existence, dignity, future, and the right to a secure life free of hegemony, subservience, extortion, and threats.

Abu Nidal Group States Intent To Free 2 Girls

NC291144 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 29 (AFP)—The Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal said Tuesday it would release two little French girls it has been holding since November 8. The group, a renegade offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the girls, Virginie, four, and Marie-Laure, six, whose mother Jacqueline Valente is also among eight people in its hands, would be taken to an Arab capital, but gave no date or other details.

The eight French and Belgian nationals, were seized on board their converted sardine boat, the "Silco," in the eastern Mediterranean by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which claimed they had Israeli passports. [passage omitted]

The communique said the girls would be accompanied on their return to France by "a group of children of the martyrs of our nation—Lebanese, Palestinians, Egyptians and Syrians". They would include the children of victims of the Israeli raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis in October 1985 and the U.S. bombing of Tripoli, Libya, in April, 1986.

The Abu Nidal group said it had decided to release the girls as a result of the "charitable and humanitarian efforts of friendly Arab countries" and in order that Marie-Laure and Virginie might be re-united with their father.

The photograph with the statement showed two girls, looking apparently well, seated at a table with a Palestinian flag hanging on the wall behind. They were each wearing a black sweater with white stripes.

Further on Fadlallah Appeal To Free Hostages

NC290905 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Dec 87 p 4

[Excerpts] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that he is opposed to the presidency being held by a Maronite, "whether a law or a norm dictates this." He said that this practice should be done away with. "He also said that the sectarian system and the procedure followed in the election of the president by the deputies should be done away with so that the people, armed with full, popular vigilance, may choose." Fadlallah's remarks came in a press interview with the "AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY." [passage omitted]

Asked about his recent appeal concerning the kidnapped persons, Fadlallah stated: We say that, regardless of circumstances and motives, it is impermissible to detain an innocent person, although we appreciate the political and humanitarian motives of the groups that resort to such methods(...) By virtue of our Islamic status, we call on the parties detaining innocent people to release them. It is impermissible to hold an innocent person just because we seek to exert pressure in a specific political situation.

Fadlallah went on to say: We appeal to all international, regional, and local parties in Lebanon to take action on the basis of humanitarian values, which they are trying to use in the issue of kidnapped foreigners, so that they may realize that humanitarian values and human rights are absolutely indivisible. If, on the basis of such values, we have to intecede to liberate the kidnapped foreigners, we must work to liberate the Muslims who are suffering in Israeli prisons, whether in the Al-Khiyam area in Lebanon, within Palestine, or in the Phalangist prisons.

Fadlallah concluded: Everyone knows that the foreign hostages are alive. But the wives, sons, and fathers of those detained in the eastern areas [of Beirut] know nothing about these people. This is also the case with those detained in the Israeli prisons. Consequently, the families of the kidnapped persons live in a state of destructive anxiety(...) We say: Let there be one voice in the world for the release of the kidnapped and detained innocent persons, because they are advocates of freedom.

New Armored Israeli Force Deployed in South

NC281719 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports from Marj 'Uyun, the Israeli occupation forces have brought an armored force consisting of 13 Merkava tanks to the Ibil al-Sadi plain within the past 24 hours. The force was then deployed at the positions of agent Lahd's army in the eastern sector, particularly in Zumarayya and Tallat 'Ayn Qinyah.

Deployments Detailed

NC290659 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli enemy dispatched huge reinforcements of armored cars to the areas of Jazzin, Hasbayya, and western Al-Biqa' over the past few hours. Arrivals from the occupied southern area said that dozens of vehicles had been deployed in these areas, particularly on the ridges of Jabbur, Burghuz, Al-Surayri, Jabal Safi, Jabal al-Rafi', and in the environs of Hasbayya, Zamrayya, and 'Ayn Qinyah.

According to information from the occupied Kafr Killa, the Israeli forces recently intensified their security measures along the barbed wire separating Lebanon and occupied Palestine. Israeli patrols have been sighted combing the area with the support of military helicopters. The inhabitants of the border villages have been cautioned to keep at least 1,000 meters away from the border strip or else they will be subject to detention.

Liberation Battalion Leader Identified
NC250715 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] The AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI magazine today disclosed the identity of the Liberation Battalion, which carries out operations against the Syrian occupation army in West Beirut, Tripoli, and other Lebanese areas.

In a detailed analysis which the magazine publishes in this morning's edition, Kan'an Naji, former military official of the Islamic Unification Movement, asserts that he is the leader of the Liberation Battalion, describing it as the military nucleus for the independent Islamic resistance to the Syrian occupation in Lebanon. The Liberation Battalion's leader promises to soon expand the geographical scope of the operations against the Syrian occupation to include the coastal road, the south, Al-Biqa', the mountain, and all areas under Syrian occupation up to the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Responding to a question on the Liberation Battalion's conditions to stop its operations against the Syrians, Naji says: The question is not one of possible bargains with the Syrians. It is a clear decision by the Muslims to re-establish the Islamic-Lebanese decision, which is being chipped away by the Syrians, Palestinians, and Iranians. He adds: Briefly speaking, we want the Syrians to keep their hands off the Muslims in Lebanon and off Lebanon itself. The resistance operations will not cease until the Syrians announce a timetable for their withdrawal from Lebanon.

The Liberation Battalion's leader emphasizes that the operations against the Syrians are widely supported by the people and have exhausted the Syrian occupation army. He considers the waging of guerrilla warfare against the regular armies as the way to defeat such armies.

In his interview with AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, the Liberation Battalion's leader warns all parties and organizations cooperating with Syria that they will share the same fate as the Syrian occupation if they defend the Syrians against the Liberation Battalion's operations. He says: We frankly say that the Muslims in Lebanon hold Syria responsible for all problems, even that of the high cost of living. It is Damascus which is responsible for the present poor economic conditions. The economic crisis will not end if the occupiers do not leave Lebanon. The Syrians have built Syria at the expense of the Lebanese economy. The Muslim areas are now paying a higher price for the Syrian occupation than what the Christian areas are paying.

Naji goes on: Gasoline, bread, and even electricity are confiscated here and taken to Syria; this is in addition to the theft of cars, houses, shops, and even pharmacies. He adds: The value of our Lebanese currency has dropped to an unbearable limit. The Syrians are trying to impose their currency on us at a price which suits them. Moreover, most of the dollar merchants are Syrians who have spread themselves among the banks.

Naji further says: If a committee were to be formed to investigate the reasons for the increase in the dollar's price, it would find out that the Syrians are responsible. Therefore, I emphasize that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is an occupation, for it was established despite the will of the Lebanese. Since 1976, the international and Arab decisions in this regard have been made on the basis that the Syrians would act as arbitrator among the Lebanese in order to end the civil and sectarian war in Lebanon. The Syrians, however, turned themselves into an occupation force in every sense of the word.

The Liberation Battalion's leader explains that the Syrian Army carries out the role of occupier and usurper, despite all the allegations that the Syrian presence is to defend Lebanon and solve its problems.

Naji then says: If we were to review the history of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon, we would find out that the Syrians have dealt blows to all or most of the Lebanese areas. When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, the Syrians did not resist the Israelis, but left Beirut subdued and humiliated to follow the road mapped out by the Israelis and under their direct supervision.

The Liberation Battalion's leader states: The Lebanese society is a pluralistic one and Lebanon has been established on the basis of communities. This is an undeniable fact and anyone who denies it is blind. He adds that the 1943 formula has failed and that what has been happening for the past 12 years is a proof of its failure.

Khaddam Reportedly Sends Message to PLO

JN290807 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Dec (WAKH)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has sent a message to the Palestinian leadership dealing with the differences between the two sides. The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today cited an informed Palestinian source in Rabat as saying that Khaddam's message was confined to political differences over relations with democratic Jewish forces and security arrangements in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The source added that this is the first time Khaddam has sent a message to the Palestinian leadership.

Citing the same source, the paper said security meetings were held between the two sides and that dialogue between the two sides on a political level will resume at the beginning of 1988.

In another development, the Syrian Government has released a new group of Palestinian detainees in Damascus and allowed the PLO to remit the funds allocated for the salaries of a large number of its cadres in Syria and to immediately cash these funds.

Al-Shar' Returns From Saudi Arabia 27 Dec

JN271147 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Riyadh this morning after delivering a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

USSR's Brutents Arrives in Damascus 28 Dec

JN281857 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Comrade Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department and Central Committee candidate member, arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was welcomed on arrival at Damascus International Airport by Comrade 'Ali Nassar, Central Committee member and secretary of the Damascus Ba'th Party branch; Ba'th Party National Command International Relations Office officials; the USSR ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

Replacement of Air Force Colonel Examined

PM241231 London THE GUARDIAN in English 23 Dec 87 p 6

[Lamis Andoni dispatch: "'Heathrow' Officer Toppled in Al-Asad Intelligence Shuffle"]

[Text] Amman—Syria has recently replaced a senior military intelligence officer who was connected with an attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner at Heathrow last year, according to Western diplomatic sources. After being replaced as head of Syrian Air Force intelligence, Colonel Muhammad al-Khuli was appointed as a senior Air Force official, the sources said. "He was promoted up and out," a diplomat in the region added.

According to Arab officials, Colonel al-Khuli's former responsibilities included supervising "Syria's special operations abroad."

Last year, his deputy, Haytham al-Sa'id, was said to have been directly connected with an aborted plot by a young Jordanian, Nisar al-Hindawi, to bomb an El Al plane at Heathrow. The sources said Al-Sa'id knew Al-Hindawi personally. Reports from Damascus last year indicated that Al-Sa'id was suspended and put under house arrest but there were conflicting reports about Colonel al-Khuli's status.

The Al-Hindawi affair led to the breaking of diplomatic relations between Britain and Syria. The colonel's removal was reported to have been a British condition for their resumption.

According to diplomats, Colonel al-Khuli kept his position until a recent government reshuffle, which followed scandals and complaints about widespread corruption in government. The reshuffle followed the replacement of the country's intelligence chief four months ago.

Diplomats believed that the replacement of Colonel al-Khuli was not necessarily connected with the Al-Hindawi affair but was part of a drive by President Hafiz al-Asad to reorganise the internal situation. The recent changes have seen Mr 'Ali Duba, head of the military department, emerge with enhanced power.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Commentary on 'Foreign Aggression'

LD271634 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT
27 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, 27 Dec (BAKHTAR)—A BAKHTAR commentary. Note: This must be published in all mass information services.

Immediately after the victory of the April Revolution, reaction and world imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, launched an undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan. They placed a number of Afghans who had been deceived or had left the country for various reasons in military training camps located on Pakistani or Iranian territory. They also created several so-called Islamic organizations in Peshawar and in other regions of Pakistan.

Imperialism and reactionary forces in the region not only poured weapons and huge sums of money into the camps but also dispatched military instructors and experts, professional mercenaries, and saboteurs to teach methods of terror and sabotage to the counterrevolutionary bands of Afghanistan.

At the same time, the enemies of the Afghan people launched an extensive campaign of psychological warfare and bitter anti-Afghan propaganda. They intensified their interference by sending armed groups into our country to carry out the most atrocious terrorist and destructive deeds. In this way the undeclared war against Afghanistan was organized and the war is intensifying with every passing day.

The armed aggression, the interference, and the state terrorism which were organized by Washington, against Afghanistan, reached such an extent that it seriously endangered not only the national and democratic revolution of our people, but also our country's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In 1979, the situation had developed to the extent that our people either had to allow Afghanistan to lose its independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity or to defend it by any possible and legal means.

Of course, acceptance of the first alternative was impossible for our people and for our national sovereignty. It was for this reason that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan requested help several times from its longtime friend, the Soviet Union, to repulse the foreign aggression.

Finally, the Soviet Union, which has always extended the hand of friendship to Afghanistan's people during the hardest times, gave a positive response to the repeated requests by the legitimate state of Afghanistan. In accordance with the treaty of cooperation, goodneighborliness, and friendship, signed in December 1978 and based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, it sent limited contingents to help our people and our Armed Forces to repulse the foreign aggression and to protect the independence and territorial integrity of our beloved Afghanistan.

Because of this timely assistance, all the sinister plans of the enemies of the Afghan people were foiled. They have intensified the undeclared war in order to prevent the peaceful [word indistinct] of Afghan society and in order to continue the killing and destruction in our country. They have put modern and advanced weapons at the disposal of the counterrevolutionaries and so added a new dimension to their aggression and interference. They have committed and are committing the msot savage inhuman deeds by sending professional terrorists and mercenaries from various parts of the world, together with extremist counterrevolutionary groups, into Afghanistan.

As a result of direct financing, arming, and organizing by the reactionary and imperialist countries, the counterrevolutionary bands have killed tens of thousands of our innocent compatriots. They have destroyed or set fire to a large number of schools, hospitals, mosques, and sacred places. They have destroyed transportation lines and telephone and power lines. With the aid of surface-to-air missiles, Stingers and Blowpipes, which have been put at the disposal of the extremist elements and in some cases have been used by foreign mercenaries in our country, several civilian and passenger aircraft have been shot down. As a result, more than 150 innocent people, including, women, children, and elderly people, have been killed. The damage which has been inflicted on our economy as a result of the undeclared war amounts to tens of billions of afghanis. This figure is a small part of the destruction caused by the criminals.

However, our people and their power not only defend this country and revolution bravely against foreign aggression but they have also achieved notable victories in rebuilding their economy and culture with the assistance of the Soviet Union and other international friends. The great success of the April Revolution is the policy of national reconciliation, which is almost a year old. As a result of implementing this humane policy, more than 110,000 refugees have returned home and about 35,000 armed men of the opposition have laid down their arms and joined the national reconciliation. Talks are continuing with 1,100 groups comprising more than 100,000 armed men. More than 3,000 villages have been peacefully liberated recently. In the majority of villages and localities, elections to local and state administration have been held. The people's power has proposed more than 14 peace initiatives to the opposition.

In order to achieve a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, and as a result of the peaceful initiative of the Republic of Afghanistan and the goodwill mission of the UN secretary general, the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan began and are

continuing. The biggest victory of the national reconciliation policy in the current year was the successful convocation of the Grand Assembly which took place in Qaws [22 Nov-21 Dec].

The Grand Assembly was attended by the elected and worthy representatives of all social classes, tribes, and nationalities in the country. The historical Grand Assembly approved the new Constitution of the country which is known as the Constitution of peace and democracy. The Grand Assembly elected esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, as president of Afghanistan.

The successes achieved while implementing the national reconciliation policy were strengthened with the all-round assistance of the Soviet Union and other friendly countries in the spheres of economic and cultural aid. The Soviet Union has helped and is helping in the construction of dozens of economic public projects and the training of cadres for Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has also given Afghanistan millions of rubles as grants-in-aid including foodstuffs and other primary consumer goods needed by our people. Direct cooperation between the provinces of our country and the republics and oblasts of the Soviet Union in the construction of economic projects and cultural establishments, enjoys special importance in reviving our national economy.

Despite the efforts of the reactionary and imperialist forces to isolate the Republic of Afghanistan, our country's international prestige is growing every day.

President Najibullah's visit to the Soviet Union and his fruitful talks with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and esteemed Najibullah's visits to the friendly Republic of India, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the People's Republic of Kampuchea has strengehend Afghanistan's international prestige even further.

The national reconciliation policy was not only welcomed and supported by a decisive majority of Afghans both inside and outside of the country, but also by all the peace-loving countries and forces of the world, including the socialist countries and the countries belonging to the Nonaligned Movement.

With the victory of the national reconciliation policy, the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have decided that the limited Soviet contingents will return to their country provided the foreign interference in our country is stopped. The return of six battalions from these forces in 1986 is an outstanding example of the goodwill and honesty of the Afghan and Soviet authorities.

President Najibullah pointed out in his speech to the Grand Assembly, after his election as president, that when the interference is stopped and when the United States and its allies end their supplies to the extremist counterrevolutionary forces and give a credible international guarantee for their nonrepetition, the Soviet limited contingents will return to their country within a period of 12 months or less.

At present, the Soviet forces are not stationed in all 13 provinces. The limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan are mainly busy protecting big economic projects, airports, highways, and logistic activities. They also take part in ensuring security for the convoy of Soviet grants-in-aid to Afghanistan's people.

It should be stated clearly that the Armed Forces of the country are capable of defending their country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity in the event that foreign armed aggression and interference is completely halted.

Today, after 9 years of undeclared war against our country, it should have been proved to each individual with sound wisdom that no forces in the world, however powerful they might be, will divert our people from the path they have chosen toward reconciliation and ensuring nationwide peace.

Mujahidin Reject Claims Khowst Seige Broken

LD281846 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 28 Dec 87

["Mujahidin Down 4 Soviet Planes, Kill 120 Enemy Troops Around Khowst"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 28, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in a fierce battle with the joint Soviet and Kabul regime forces around the mujahidin besieged garrison town of Khowst, killed 120 troops and downed four helicopters and fighter planes.

The latest news from Khowst in Paktia Province, southeastern Afghanistan, indicate that bitter fight raged between the Afghan mujahidin and the joint forces who launched a massive assault to break the siege, between Dec. 24-26.

A source close to the mujahidin told IRNA, that despite the claims made by Kabul radio of breaking the Khowst siege, the town still remains besieged by the Afghan mujahidin.

It is recalled that the military garrison of Khowst is situated in a town which bears the same name and has remained under the siege of the mujahidin since the early days of the Soviet intrusion into Afghanistan. The joint forces have not yet succeeded in breaking the siege in spite of making all-out attempts for the last three weeks.

Mujahidin Leader Calls for Talks With Soviets

LD272021 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 27, IRNA—Leader of Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) of Afghanistan Ayatollah Asef Mohseni said here today that if the Afghan issue is to be solved through negotiations, the Soviet Union should enter direct talks with Afghan mujahidin.

In an interview here Ayatollah Mohseni said the issue should be resolved by the Afghan people because it is obvious the U.S. and the Soviet Union are not capable of working it out by themselves.

On the United Nations inability to solve the issue Ayatollah Mohseni added that an all-out struggle on the military, political, and cultural fronts is the only way by which Afghan mujahidin can force the occupying forces to withdraw from their land unconditionally.

"If any talks are to be held on the issue it should take place directly between Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and Moscow," Mohseni said and ruled out indirect talks such as those between Pakistan and the Kabul regime under way in Geneva.

On rumours on formation of a coalition government with the ruling communist regime or return of former ruler Shah Zahir, Ayatollah Mohseni said any coalition between individuals or groups and the Kabul regime is a blatant treachery to the cause of the oppressed Afghan nation.

He stressed that Afghan Muslim people do not fight merely for Afghanistan soil but that they are fighting for dignity and establishment of Islamic Government.

Weapons Depot Discovered in Laghman Province

LD231934 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A weapons depot of the extremists has been discovered with the cooperation of the people of Kats 'Aziz Khan in the District of Qarghah'i in Laghman Province. One hundred fifty ground-to-ground rockets, one mortar, and a large amount of assorted ammunition were captured from the depot.

Calm Restored to 728 Villages in Ghazni

LD271438 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] In light of the policy of national reconciliation, government sovereignty has been restored in a peaceful manner in 144 villages in the capital and surroundings of Ghazni Province, and the subdistrict of Dehyak, consisting of 58 villages and 62,000 people, has been proclaimed a zone of peace.

A spokesman of the national reconciliation commission of Ghazni Province told the BAKHTAR correspondent in Ghazni city that as a result of the work and activities of the members of national reconciliation commissions of Ghazni Province, 340 families consisting of 2,590 persons, returned to their villages in the surroundings of Ghazni Province. Furthermore, elections of the people's delegates in the local organs of the state power and administration have taken place in 308 villages.

The source added that as a result of many contacts by members of the national reconciliation commissions in Ghazni Province with the armed opposition groups, 13 groups from 4 tribes which have 5,834 armed men, now observe the cease-fire. As a result of this, peace and calm has been restored in 728 villages of Ghazi Province.

Among the returnees, 862 persons were introduced into the Armed Forces for service, 130 were introduced into government institutions, and 18 persons were introduced into educational institutions; and deferment for 6 months from military service were issued to 17 persons.

The source added that at this very moment, 432 national reconciliation commissions and 110 peace assemblies are operating in Ghazni Province consisting of 1,956 members, including the delegates of former armed opposition groups.

'Extremist' Group Crushed, Convoy Seized

LD281941 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] An armed extremist group tried to dispatch a convoy of arms and ammunition in order to disturb the peaceful lives of our compatriots in the areas around Qarghah'i District, Laghman Province. It has been crushed and the armed convoy siezed by the security forces of the country.

According to a BAKHTAR military correspondent's report, the inhabitants of (?Kakes) and (Parman Khel) villages of Qarghah'i District informed the country's security forces about the dispatch of the extremists' arms and ammunition convoy and requested that the security forces ask the extremists to hand over their arms and ammunition to the security forces, taking into consideration the conditions of the ceasefire. The extremists fired on them, however, and the security forces repsonded in order to prevent crimes by the extremists.

As a result, this group was crushed and a mortar with its 25 shells, a rocket launcher with 40 shells, two heavy machineguns with their 50 boxes of shells, a mine-detonating system, 5 sacks of explosives and a large number of light weapons and antipersonnel and antivehicle mines, 26 reactive [as heard] shells, and 18 horses that were carrying these arms and ammunition were seized by the country's security forces.

Keshtmand Receives Soviet Youth Delegation
LD272331 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with Victor Ivanovich Mironenko, secretary of the Central Committee of All-Union Leninist Youth, and the accompanying delegation in his office.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand took part in a meeting of journalists concerned with youth's and children's issues. Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and Farid Ahmad Mozdak, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, were also present.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand welcomed the delegation to Afghanistan. He congratulated them and through them the Soviet people on the arrival of the new year. He said he hoped 1988 would be the year of peace, security, and international understanding and cooperation.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke to the journalists about the national reconciliation policy and the role of youths in Afghanistan. His speech will be carried tonight by Afghanistan Radio. He also answered journalists' questions. At the end of his meeting with the head of the delegation, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Soviets.

Islamic Leader Sayaf on U.S., Pakistani Roles
JN241730 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
21 Dec 87 p 13

[Interview with Ghulam Abdul Rasul Sayaf, leader of the Islamic Unity Movement and former leader of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, by Basil Muhammad; place, date not given]

[Text] [Muhammad] Talk about U.S. support for the Afghan struggle has become a daily affair. In your opinion, what does the United States want from Afghanistan?

[Sayaf] The United States is concerned about its own interests. When it intervenes in any issue it is strictly in the interests of its policy and to service its security. The United States wants the Soviet Union to become involved in a confrontation with the mujahidin and to be defeated. But the battle in Afghanistan is between Islam and infidelity. Therefore, the outcome will be in the interests of Islam.

Some people support the mujahidin because they have a just cause. Others support us because they think the battle might serve their interests. And still others support us because they are sons of our nation and our brothers in faith. Some people do not support us because they share our objectives and motives. Thus, we can understand why the United States is supporting the Afghan struggle.

[Muhammad] Stinger missiles are one of the cards which the United States has used for some time to prove its strong ties with the mujahidin. While the mujahidin have previously denied the existence of these missiles, they recently announced that Iran seized a number of them from Afghan mujahidin as they were crossing the border between Iran and Afghanistan. Do you have any comments on this?

[Sayaf] What I can say, and this is correct, is that I have not received anything from the Americans, missiles or anything else. When I say I, I mean my entire organization. I have not received anything from the infidels, or even from the missionary institutions which number 70 here thus far. God knows, I have not even received a piece of a biscuit from them. At any rate, it is not the weapons that fight, but men. If it were weapons that decided battles and victory or defeat, the Soviets would have eliminated one thousand revolutionaries such as ourselves. But arms are not the decisive factor. The decisive factor is faith and men.

[Muhammad] If you think the United States is behind a conspiracy against the jihad in order to achieve its own interests, what, in your opinion, are the guarantees that the jihad will not be trapped into this conspiracy?

[Sayaf] The only guarantee is our adherence to the faith on which this jihad is based and our confidence in God alone. This is the guarantee. There is no material guarantee. I feel, and only God knows, that the entire world cannot take the gains of this jihad from us. This is my belief and faith in God. If all of the infidels unite against us, I will say God is great and I will be stronger than they are.

Personally, I am not perturbed by anything because what we are building is not for our world, but for the life hereafter. If God backs us in this world, then we are grateful to him. And if we are to be martyred, then this is even better. Everything rests with him.

[Muhammad] How do you view Pakistan's role and participation in the political talks with the Soviets on the Afghan issue?

[Sayaf] Pakistan is participating in these meetings under internal and external pressures. However, we trust President Ziaul Haq. He is a good man and he is also courageous and pious. This is how we view him. Pakistan wants the Soviets to withdraw and to resolve the issue. However, Pakistan's desire to resolve the issue is one thing and our desire to achieve our aspirations is another. We are not just after the withdrawal of the Soviets. After all, some Muslim states are still occupied although there are no foreigners in them. We want a

liberated Afghanistan in the Islamic sense, in other words, an Afghanistan that is free from the chains of despotic regimes, an Afghanistan that enters the rule of God Almighty.

[Muhammad] Do you think that through these talks Pakistan can reach a political solution without the mujahidin's wishes?

[Sayaf] I think they will take into consideration our opinions and viewpoints in what they are doing, although we did not support the ongoing talks from the beginning. The call for a peaceful solution originated in the fact that in their 7-year war, the Soviets and the Afghans have suffered great losses. This was due to the extent that the Soviets, who were not accustomed to leaving a land their feet have long trodden, began to announce they were ready to leave Afghanistan.

However, since the Soviets are a superpower with the right to use the veto and with many satellites in space, the advocates of a peaceful solution wanted to consider a way which keeps their state's honor intact. This solution stipulates that Afghanistan not be handed to the mujahidin because they do not want a hostile neighboring government and because they are worried about the future of their agents in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the mujahidin will not lay down their arms as long as the Soviets are present on their land and as long as the communists rule this country. The compromise contained in the proposed plan calls for a government comprised of neutral elements and for giving the Soviets an appropriate opportunity to withdraw quietly and without fear, provided that support for the mujahidin is suspended, fire ceased, and refugees returned to their country.

After the situation calms down, the neutral government would provide an appropriate atmosphere and suitable circumstances for the Afghan people to consider their self-determination.

This proposed picture is only a tube filled with explosives which would have undermined our strength and uprooted us if we had not discovered its contents. We say the mujahidin waged these battles motivated by their faithfulness and religion in order to annihilate the infidel regime and establish a state of the Koran.

The mujahidin did not begin this struggle after the Soviets entered their country, but fought the apostate Afghans before the Soviet military intervention. Therefore, Soviet withdrawal is not considered a sufficient solution for the mujahidin. The remedy is the withdrawal of the entire apostacy, obliterating its effects, the establishment of an Islamic state, and the hoisting of the banners of monotheism in a faithful Afghanistan. The proposed solutions achieve none of these.

Bangladesh

Jatiya Calls for Pullout From Afghanistan

BK280155 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Jatiya Party has called for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan to facilitate a permanent political solution of the Afghan issue. At a workers meeting on the Afghan Day in the capital yesterday, the party also urged for showing respect to the UN Charter in this regard.

The meeting was presided over by a central leader of the party, Mahbub Haq Dolon.

Ershad Addresses Party on Elections, Opposition

BK290419 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said elections to parliament will be held when the Election Commission will announce the schedule. Addressing an extended meeting of the Jatiya Party in Dhaka yesterday, the president expressed the hope that those who want welfare of the people in the country would take part in the election. He said the people have rejected the politics of indiscipline and terrorism, demonstrating their wish for solving problems through constitutional means. He said those who are indulging in negative politics are aware of the fact that they have no support among the people. That is why they have been taking recourse to unconstitutional means and are afraid of joining the election.

The president further said the present government has been making all-out efforts to uphold democratic values and build the country while some elements have taken to the path of indiscipline. He expressed the hope that they will shun indiscipline and participate in the poll to show respect to democracy. He asked the leaders and workers of Jatiya Party to make preparations for participating in the election. He said Jatiya Party firmly believes in democracy and politics of production and development and hence, it has total confidence in the people.

Addressing the meeting, the Jatiya Party secretary general and deputy prime minister, Shah Moazzam Hussain, has said those who will not participate in the election are in fact afraid of the people and they will automatically be out from politics.

The liaison committee of the eight-, seven-, and five-party alliances at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday reaffirmed that the prevailing crisis and political stalemate in the country cannot be overcome without the resignation of the government. The committee cabled for lifting of the state of emergency, curfew, and restrictions on the press immediately and release of all political detenues [detainees].

In a statement, the acting amir [chief] of Jamiat-i Islami, Mr Abbas Ali Khan, has said the party made it clear that there is no other alternative to overcome the current political crisis other than handing over power to a caretaker government. Seven advocates in a statement called upon the opposition to sit for a dialogue with the government without any more delay to put an end to the present political crisis. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Autoricksha Chalak Samabay [drivers cooperative] Federation Limited has called upon all political parties to keep the operation of autorickshas outside the purview of the [opposition] program in the interest of the autoricksha drivers and their families.

Prime Minister Urges Opposition To Shun Violence

BK270912 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has urged the opposition leaders to restrain their young followers from acts of violence that threaten to destroy social peace and democratic norms. Speaking at a rally of the Jatiya Party workers in Mymensingh yesterday, he reminded that political leaders who believed in democratic practices should bear in mind that elections are the only means to judge popularity of any party and its programs.

Deputy Prime Minister and Jatiya Party Secretary General Shah Moazzam Hussain called upon all political forces in the country to help continue the democratic structure through participating in the coming polls. Addressing a meeting of the party district level leaders in the capital yesterday evening, Shah Moazzam said it is the expectation of the whole nation that the political parties will shun their hypocritical attitudes to face the current challenge.

Addressing the conference of the Comilla regional unit of the Jatiya Sramik Party yesterday, Information Minister Anwar Zahid expressed the hope that the conspiracies of the vested quarters would be foiled by peace-loving people who want to continue a constitutional process in the country.

Planning Minister Announces Jobs for Tribals

BK280420 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Six hundred unemployed tribals will be given jobs immediately on priority basis as a mark of government's sincerity and goodwill toward the tribal people of the country. This was disclosed by Planning Minister and Chairman of the National Committee for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs A.K. Khandokar while presiding over a review meeting of the committee in Chittagong yesterday. Announcing the government's decision for the welfare of the tribal people, the minister said 10 percent of the development activities of the hill tribes area would be earmarked for the tribal contractors. The contractors engaged in the hill tribes would have to employ at least 10 percent laborers from the tribal people.

The planning minister said the government is keen to take all possible measures to bring about a peaceful and lasting solution to all the existing problems of the hill tribes. He underscored the need for spontaneous and sincere participation of the tribal people in the government's efforts.

The tribal leaders, including Chakma Raja Debasish Roy, Mr A.S.P. Chowdhury, Mr Subimal Dewan, Mr Upendralal Chakma, and Mr Charu Bikash Chakma attended the meeting.

Opposition To Continue Current Movement

BK270908 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Bangladesh Nationalist Party at a meeting of its executive committee presided over by the party chief, Begum Khaleda Zia, has pledged to continue its current movement. It reiterated its call for free and fair elections under a neutral and interim government. The meeting demanded the release of the opposition workers and leaders and withdrawal of emergency and restrictions on the media.

The Awami League general secretary, Begum Sajeda Chowdury, called for the resignation of the government to overcome the present crisis. In a statement, she said free and fair election is the only way to reestablish the rights of the people.

The leaders of the 23-party alliance have urged the president to announce the date for holding dialogue for free and fair elections. Addressing a meeting at the party office in the capital yesterday, the leaders said the dialogue cannot be stopped because of unwillingness of certain quarters. Other parties who have issued statements include the Workers Party of Bangladesh, Democratic League, Bangladesh Ulema Party, Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan, Nikhil Bangladesh Muslim League, the Islamic Front, Bangladesh Islamic Party, Bangladesh Gana Azadi League, the Progressive Nationalist Party, Jatiya Nagrik Sanghati, and Bangladesh Tafsil Jati Federation.

Various Opposition Parties Issue Demands

BK281645 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Bangladesh Upazilla [subdistrict] Chairmen Parishad [council] today underscored the importance of a dialogue between the government and the opposition for their participation in the elections for solving the present crisis. The parishad said continuous opposition programs were harming both the country's economy and

people. The opposition political leaders should find ways and means to dialogue with the government for peaceful and democratic solution of the political issues.

Bangladesh Muslim League has reiterated that election is the only means to get rid of the political tangle prevailing in the country. In a statement today, party Secretary General Alhaj Mohammad Zamir Ali said irresponsible and sweeping remarks by the political leaders are pushing the country toward an unprecedented and dangerous political crisis.

The Yodha [freedom fighters] Front in a statement today opined that resignation of the government and handing over power to a caretaker government are the only means to tide over the present political crisis in the country. In a statement, the party also demanded release of all political detenues [detainees], withdrawal of the emergency and restrictions on the press, and reopening of all educational institutions.

The Jatiya Dal president has stressed the need for a congenial atmosphere for holding a free and fair election by releasing the detained lawyers and lifting of the emergency and curfew.

Jatiya Janata Party in a similar statement expressed the hope that the government and major political parties could reach a compromised formula on the basis of sovereign parliamentary form of government to hold a free and fair election in time with a view to saving the country from ruination.

Expressing deep concern at the political situation in the country, the chairman of the Bangladesh People's Party, Mohammad Shahjahan, suggested dissolution of the cabinet and formation of a nonparty advisory council. He also demanded release of all political detenus and freedom of the press.

Bangladesh Gana Azadi League says resignation of the present government and free and fair election of a sovereign national parliament under a neutral government can save the country out of the present morass.

The Bangladesh United Nationalist Party and Bangladesh Krisak Sramik Mukti Andolan has expressed similar views issuing separate statements. Jatiya Sramik Party blamed a few power greedy political parties for the prevailing political and economic unrest in the country. The leaders of the party called upon the opposition political alliances to solve the problems through discussions. They also urged the members of the public not to be intimidated by the undemocratic and unconstitutional programs of the opposition parties.

India

Iranian Minister Discusses Trade With Tiwari

BK241715 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The visiting Iranian minister of heavy industries, Mr Behzad Nabavi, called on the commerce and finance minister, Mr Tiwari, in New Delhi today and discussed the possibilities of expanding cooperation in trade and industry. The two sides expressed their keen desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation and identified several new areas. The minister of state for petroleum, Mr Brahm Dutt, was also present.

Mr Tiwari pointed out the deficit in trade faced by India with Iran over the last few years. Trade turnover between the two countries was worth 182 crore rupees, which included 135 crores worth of exports to India by Iran.

During the official-level talks over the last few days, several Indian companies have entered into an agreement with Iranian companies for supply of technical knowhow, machinery, and equipment to Iran. In all, 23 proposals for industrial cooperation were discussed.

Industrial Agreements Signed

BK251314 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Iran has agreed to buy goods worth 100 crore rupees from India and double its imports in a short time. A memorandum of understanding for this was signed in New Delhi today between the two sides at the end of the Indo-Iran talks on industrial cooperation, research, and training.

The Iranian delegation, which visited over 50 industrial units both in the public and private sectors, has signed several agreements with 30 Indian companies for transfer of technology and supply of sophisticated engineering goods to Iran. The areas include consultancy and technical services in iron casting, machine building, manufacture of diesel engines, equipment for refineries, power plants, cement and sugar factories.

Reconstruction Aid for Iran

BK261615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] India is to assist Iran in the reconstruction of industrial units destroyed in the Gulf war. This was stated by the Iranian heavy industries minister, Mr Behzad Nabavi, in Tehran after his return from New Delhi. He said this is a part of an agreement signed in New Delhi after a week-long discussions.

Murder of Sri Lankan Official Condemned

BK231630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] India has condemned the assassination of Mr Harish Abeywardene. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Indian Government condemns all such terrorism.

Thirteen LTTE men have been killed and three wounded in the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] operations in Jaffna Peninsula during the last 24 hours. PKF casualties include three jawans [soldiers] killed and four wounded. Ten LTTE men were killed in a major clash which took place between PKF and LTTE in Urumpirai area. Three other LTTE men were killed in two separate incidents.

A PKF patrol was ambushed in Chavakachcheri, killing three jawans and wounding four. Reports say that there has been extensive demoralization among the LTTE cadre in light of the firm stand taken by the Indian Government. As the cadres are defecting from their groups, LTTE is trying to get reinforcements from the Eastern Province.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that normal activities go on in Jaffna. Power supply has been completely restored except for the industrial area.

7 Officers Held Hostage in Andra Pradesh

BK281315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Center has assured the Andhra Pradesh government of all assistance in securing the release of seven officers held hostage by Naxalites [Marxist-Communist extremists] in the East Godavari District. Some units of central security forces have been rushed to the area. The situation was reviewed at a high-level meeting in New Delhi today. It was attended by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram; and senior officers of the Home Ministry. The meeting discussed arrangements for the rescue mission being mounted by the state government.

Reports say that nine officers, six of them of the IAS [Indian Administrative Service] were returning from East Godavari District after attending a meeting on tribal welfare when they were held captive in a surprise attack. Two women officers were released later.

In Hyderabad, a high-level meeting was held today presided over by the chief minister, Mr N.T.Ramarao, to take stock of the situation.

Naxalite Prisoners Released

BK290345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh government has released eight Naxalite [Marxist-Communist extremists] prisoners from Rajahmundry Central Jail to facilitate the release of six IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officers held as hostages by Naxalites. The chief secretary, Mr Sharavan Kumar, announcing this in Hyderabad this morning, expressed the hope that the decision will get a positive response. As reported earlier, on Sunday [27 December], a group of Naxalites ambushed eight IAS officers in the tribal areas of East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh. Later, they released two women officers. The Naxalites demanded the release of eight of their men kept as prisoners.

Clashes Between Gurkha Front, Police Continue

GNLF 'Activist' Killed

BK261626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] One GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporter was killed and another injured in an exchange of fire between the activists and the police at (Lungthor) near Darjeeling town last night. The GNLF activists attacked the police party with fire arms and bombs. Three constables were injured. Some pipeguns and a large number of bombs and explosive material were recovered. GNLF activists also threw two bombs in Kalimpong last night.

The number of persons arrested under the Anti-Terrorist Act has gone up to 50.

One more company of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] has reached Darjeeling. Police have raided the premises of the GNLF women's wing and seized incriminating documents. A stronghold of the youth wing of the GNLF was also raided.

'Activists' Attack Police Post

BK271640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, police today conducted a massive raid in Ambutiapanchghare area of Kurseong subdivision in the Darjeeling District and arrested 15 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists. They recovered one remote control detonator and large quantities of explosives during the raid.

Meanwhile, a group of armed GNLF activists attacked Parsen police checkpost under (Gurubagan) police station in Kalimpong subdivision last night and took away some arms and ammunition. The district magistrate told our Siliguri correspondent that the activists also kidnapped two constables and injured one. The constables, however, managed to escape.

6 Killed, 4 Injured by Extremists in Tripura

BK260502 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] In Tripura, a gang of TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists killed six persons and injured four at a village, Shivbari, in north Tripura District last night. The injured were admitted to hospital. Senior police officials have gone to the spot and intensive combing operation is on.

Strikes Called in Protest

BK271309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Normal life was affected in the Kela Shahar subdivision of north Tripura today following two separate bundhs [strikes] called in protest against the killing of six persons at Shivbari by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists on Friday. The bundhs were called by the Congress-I and the CPI-M. Shops, markets, and business establishments were closed and vehicular traffic was off the road.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab Districts

'Terrorists' Kill CPI-M Activist

BK270800 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, six persons, including two terrorists, were killed in separate incidents last night. In Patiala District, two terrorists who opened fire when challenged were killed when the police naka [patrol] party returned the fire near village Panjora. In Amritsar District, some terrorists intruded into the house of Jagir Singh in village Shahzada and killed him and his wife and seriously injured their 2-year-old daughter.

In another incident in the district the terrorists shot dead a CPI-M activist, Kashmir Singh, in village Bhatike. Police recovered a bullet-ridden body of a youth in village Hotia also in Amritsar District. He is believed to have fallen victims to group rivalry among the terrorists.

7 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK281610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, seven terrorists were arrested from their hideouts during the last 24 hours in Faridkot District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. The police chief told our correspondent in Moga that these terrorists were responsible for a large number of robberies and terrorist activities in and around Faridkot District.

Nuclear Scientist Criticizes U.S. Attitude

BK280342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The eminent nuclear scientist, Dr Raja Ramanna, has expressed regret over the attitude of the U.S. Administration in equating India with Pakistan in nuclear program. Quoting some American scientists, he said Pakistan is enriching uranium to a higher grade, posing a danger to this part of the world.

Speaking at a function in Bangalore, Dr Raja Ramanna said India's nuclear program is truly for peaceful purposes. He strongly advocated indigenous development and fabrication of nuclear reactors for generating 10,000 mw of power by the year 2000 AD.

U.S. Aid to Pakistan Called 'Myopic'

BK231406 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
7 Dec 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Myopic as Ever"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress has finally obliged Gen. Ziaul Haq and cleared the way for the grant of $4.02 billion in military and economic assistance to his regime for six years from October 1987. It did so by approving $587 billion in U.S. federal spending which includes a proportionate provision for Pakistan for this year. The administration's aid package to Pakistan was stalled in October following the embarrassment caused to it by the Arshad Pervez case which brought to light yet another Pakistani violation of the American law barring export of nuclear materials. The U.S. concern over the surreptitious Pak pursuit of a nuclear weapons programme has thus proved to be short-lived. It transpires that the US administration and a majority on Capitol Hill prefer to continue to give precedence to the need, as they see it, to strengthen the Pakistan military leadership as an invaluable client.

What Washington is doing today is not just a continuation of an old policy. An attempt is being made to give an additional anti-Indian twist to it. This is the plain meaning of the amendment adopted by the Senate Sub-Comittee for Appropriations making even the transfer of high technology to India conditional on New Delhi agreeing to subject its nuclear facilities to international inspection. This move is apparently the outcome of a collusion between the tireless Pak propagandists in the US and the surviving advocates of the cold war ideology who have thrived under the Reagan administration. If it goes through in the full Committee and the Senate, the amendment will severely strain Indo-American ties. US policy to the region—Mr Rajiv Gandhi's much touted "successful visit" notwithstanding—remains as myopic as it has ever been.

Pakistan Reportedly 'Stealing' Nuclear Secrets

BK241525 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] A fortnight ago the two superpowers took a momentous decision to move toward nuclear disarmament. President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev signed an accord for the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe and agreed to work on another crucial accord next year on the elimination of more dangerous missiles. The world applauded their wisdom—the world minus Pakistan, which is hell-bent on building its nuclear bomb. To accomplish that it has been engaged systematically for years in stealing other nations' nuclear secrets and nuclear weapons grade materials.

A top nuclear technologist of Islamabad, Dr A.Q. Khan himself has been involved in a court case in the Netherlands for stealing nuclear device and formulas from a joint European project in this country, where he was holding a job. Other Pakistanis, obviously under official inspiration, have been illegally importing nuclear bomb materials from different countries. One such man is Arshar Pervez, who additionally holds a Canadian passport also. Pervez was caught in the act. He has just been convicted by an American federal court in Philadelphia for attempting to export illegally from that country nuclear grade steel to Pakistan. The case has created quite a stir in the United States, whose administration has been known for its softness toward Islamabad.

Pakistan has acted as a conduit for clandestine American arms aid to the Afghan rebels and allowed the staging of raids on Afghanistan from its soil. Pakistan is also an American policeman performing watchdog duties in the Gulf on Washington's behalf. And yet, the Americans were greatly perturbed by the Pervez case disclosures. The court in Philadelphia found that Pervez was acting for a Pakistani brigadier, Inamul Haq, operating at the other end in Islamabad. But when the American prosecutor wanted Brigadier Inam to be produced to face trial, Islamabad blandly said Inam was absconding. That did not absolve Pakistan of its complicity in the smuggling of nuclear weapon grade materials from the United States. After all, such materials can only be used in making the bomb in which Pakistan is engaged.

Evidence in the Pervez trial established that the materials that Pervez was trying to smuggle into Pakistan would have fueled three nuclear bombs. Islamabad feigned innocence and tried to wriggle out of the involvement. But then the simple question arose, who would really need such smuggled goods? Surely, they could not be sold in the bazaars of Lahore and Karachi unlike smuggled watches and electronic goods. Only the nuclear bomb establishment of Islamabad under the redoubtable A.Q. Khan would have used the smuggled materials if Pervez had not found himself in the United States' prison. He now faces a sentence of up to 25 years in prison and a fine of more than a million dollars.

The American Congress was first terribly shocked by this Pakistan perfidy, when Pervez was arrested and the details of the smuggling conspiracy became public. It stopped the aid that was going to Pakistan and a new 6-year package of $4.20 billion of American aid for arms and economic help to Pakistan was also in jeopardy. Islamabad was somewhat perturbed and it made noises of suddenly defending the Soviet regime in Moscow. This transparent diplomacy of convenience of going along with the highest bidder could not succeed. Moscow saw through it. But Washington knew that it needed Pakistan as much as the Islamabad regime needed American aid to build up its conventional weapons armory for its economic survival. So, after all the noises made in the Congress on the Pakistani bomb, the temporary ban that Congress had imposed on aid, and its insistence on safeguards on the bomb capability of Islamabad, the Reagan administration has been able to twist the arms of defending senators and congressmen. Now the entire aid package of $4.02 billion has been cleared at one go.

India is deeply concerned over these developments. Far from learning the lesson of the Pervez conviction, the Reagan administration has chosen to ignore the verdict of its own court. It has closed its eyes to the fact that its own sources have told it that Islamabad already has a bomb in the basement and also ignored Indian protest that Pakistan must be stopped from going nuclear. For every step Islamabad takes toward the bomb, public concern in this country goes on mounting. The pressure on New Delhi to match the Islamabad bomb also grows.

Committee To Review Delhi Administration

BK241635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A high power committee has been constituted by the government to undertake comprehensive review of administrative and municipal structure in the union territory of Delhi. The three-member committee headed by Mr Justice R.S. Sarkaria is expected to submit its report within 6 months.

Meanwhile, the term of the Delhi Metropolitan Council and Municipal Corporation has been extended by 1 year through a presidential ordinance issued in New Delhi today.

Iran

Musavi Addresses Majlis on Budget, Gulf War

LD281815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0914 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to the Majlis on 27 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God who has made the fighting people of Iran the vanguards of men on their way to

salvation at this fateful time in history. Thanks be to God who gave me and my colleagues the honor of serving this great nation. I herewith submit the 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] general budget of the country to the esteemed Majlis. [passage omitted]

The government considers the U.S. presence and the presence of the NATO fleet in the Persian Gulf a serious development. Because our holy regime could never compromise and retreat, preparations were immediately made to offer total resistance in case of any wicked moves by the United States. The government formed seven commissions at the highest level to review the country's political, security, and economic capabilities. These commissions held monthly sessions to review our capabilities and to predict possible events in order to prepare plans for resistance in the worst possible conditions that world arrogance could inflict on us. The result of this effort—in itself indicative of the uncompromising spirit of our Islamic government and nation—was a valuable document reviewing our capabilities and including programs which could, even under normal conditions, be effectively used to guard and protect our national security and independence.

I should inform the Islamic nation and its deputies that the general direction of these plans is the same as that given by the great leader of the revolution, that is, defense to the last house, the last person, the last drop of blood. In the throes of a battle declared by the criminal United States against the Islamic Republic, we realized the extent of our strength to confront anyone who embarks on an aggression against us. We realized the capabilities of our country, our nation, and our system. This realization and our faith will be a great aid on the course we have pursued for the last 9 years.

In our efforts to equip the country in preparation for confronting the enemy which has struck at the very foundation of the revolution and the roots of our nation, the first step was to find a solution for the weakest point in our country's economy, that is, the dependence of national production on external sources, and the great share that our oil occupies in the country's income and its serious vulnerability in the face of political and military aggressions by the enemies of the revolution. This difficult situation was not of our own making, nor was it caused by the natural conditions of the country. This was the result of restrictions imposed on us and countries like us by colonialists many decades ago. This was a bottleneck blocking our independence, a chain by which bullies could claim us as their own slaves. To dismantle this trap we had to take a number of coordinated steps, which we did.

Undoubtedly, the most important of these steps was the experience gained from the foreign exchange crises of the last few years, 1365 [1986-87] in particular. Running a country on a war footing and on a fifth of the foreign exchange income forecast by the former regime for peace conditions in the mid-sixties was a valuable experience that was fully utilized despite the relative recovery in oil revenues in the current year. The country's foreign exchange expenditures in the current year was 3.4 percent less compared with the same period in 1365 and was 50 percent less compared with the same period in 1363. This does not mean that such saving measures have not placed the unhealthy fabric of the country's economy under pressure. This does not mean that the imposition of such policies has not added to the burden of the executive branch. This does not mean that many of the current economic problems in our revolutionary society do not stem from this wise economy. This means that the country's unhealthy and [words indistinct] economy has been forced to swallow this bitter medicine. If we do not suffer today's hardships, we would have to experience more difficult days in the future. In our efforts to resolve our problems and meet our own needs we should try to find a way other than resorting to enemies, and we believe we can. We know we will succeed. Experience has taught us that we are capable of resolving our own problems. [passage omitted]

A general list of Iran's defense products, despite all restrictions imposed on us by the world arrogance, is so varied and rich in its quality and quantity that it causes surprise and evokes praise from friends and enemies. What our committed and faithful brothers have achieved under the present difficult conditions and our belief in the correctness of the direction we have adopted gives us hope and good indications of a bright future. A general account of industrial programs affiliated with the IRGC and Defense Ministries would provide an example of a trend in our foreign exchange savings in this connection. Ammunition, mortars of different sizes from 60 to 105 mm, and various exercise and combat grenades are manufactured in the country. Moreover, the rate of production is such that there is almost no need to import ammunition from abroad. In our missile manufacturing industry, in addition to producing various types of mini-katyushas, antitank and TOW missiles— currently being mass produced—surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, parts and equipment for foreign-made missile launchers are being domestically produced at a noteworthy level. The manufacture of assorted naval trailers, jetties, pontoon bridges, tugboats, vessels and motor launches, motor rafts with capacities ranging between 100 to 750 tons, wooden or steel-bodied, and waterjet engines in large numbers is currently under way.

In the aviation industries the Guards Corps has been able to meet a great part of the needs of the Islamic fighters, that is, small remote-controlled vehicles, radio systems, radar and ground control systems. The bodies of different small planes, programmable planes, and lightweight monitors in this group are also manufactured. In addition, extended research and experiments have been carried out in this connection, and various plans have been drawn up for the future, including the production of a superior fighter plane. Here I would like

to announce to the esteemed deputies of the nation and our dear nation: We are not far from the day when we will witness the flight of our domestically built fighter planes.

In view of the evil measures taken by the Ba'thist Zionist enemy, the need for more work in chemical, biological, and nuclear defenses was recognized. Therefore, production of assorted personal protective and relief gear, clothing, masks, overalls and [words indistinct] and various antidotes began in the country. Moreover, another section has been set up in the country for manufacturing various chemical weapons. And if one day Islam permits us, we will have no problems in the use and mass production of these weapons. Today we can claim that we have the technology to produce different chemical weapons. At the same time we declare that we will not make use of these facilities until we are forced to. We will continue to act in accordance with international conventions.

The Guards Corps' naval industries have succeeded in mass-producing a variety of 350-1,000 ton barges, speedboats, floating platforms, dummy targets, wooden and steel landing crafts, assorted 4-8 wheeled trailers, and 30-ton floating jetties. These have played an important part in maintaining the superiority of the Islamic fighters in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The weapons group has succeeded in mass-producing a variety of 60-120mm mortar launchers, RPG-7's, mini-Katyushas, 60-120 mm guns and 27 mm rifle-type mortar launches, thus playing an important part in the foreign exchange savings made by the country.

The special industry group is involved in mass-producing large volumes of various warheads for missiles, explosive fuses; assorted heavy, medium and light bombs up to 440 lbs; assorted rockets with different warheads; field gun ammunition and mortar, antipersonnel and antitank mines; and other weapons. All this is in coordination with other industries in the country, particularly heavy industries.

Together with the IRGC Ministry, the Defense Ministry's Defense Industries Organization has also taken important and valuable steps toward self-sufficiency. Various technical and production groups have been formed within the organization, each of which plays an admirable part in meeting the country's defense needs within the limits of its responsibilities and duties. The mass production of 23 kinds of light and heavy ammunition needed by the forces of Islam and 2 kinds of 23 mm ammunition, 13 different weapons, various tracked personnel carriers, tanks and fieldgun transporters, 13 types of gunpowder, [words indistinct] dynamite, 6 other kinds of explosives, and various chemical products needed by the defense forces forms part of this group's production.

Today, up to 100 advanced industries are involved in missile production and recently the serving government witnessed the successful test launch of ballistic missiles that were totally manufactured inside the country, and their transportation to the fronts of the war of light against darkness began last week. [passage omitted]

Another step in guarding the country's foreign exchange income from the enemy's aggression includes a reevaluation of the country's natural resources. We do not have enough time to go into the details of this reevaluation which has not yet been completed.

Based on our understanding of the country's resources this year it should merely be said that Iran is a great treasure, a treasure in which vast and rich mines, such as gold and other valuable metals, were discovered this year. [passage omitted]

This year exploration work on the (Hasaniyeh) field was successfully concluded. It is 130 km long and has an average width of 12 km on three levels. It is one of the biggest gas mines in the world. In Sarakhs and (Sangiran) area, two new fields of sweet gas were discovered this year. Also, the upper level of Shurijeh mine was explored this year. Considering the latest reserves discovered, the life of the country's gas reserves is estimated at approximately 1,200 years, based on the present rate of consumption. [passage omitted]

The expansion of nonoil exports, despite problems arising from a deep-rooted shortcoming in that sector in the last 2 years, continued to be a source of pride this year. In 1366 [1987-88], due to the severe inflationary effects of the settlement note rate, the government was forced to adjust the export foreign currency rate. Although, as a result of the implementation of these policies, the volume of the country's nonoil exports was expected to fall to $200 million, the figures for the first 8 months of this year not only show no drop but indicate a 13-percent increase in that sector of the country's exports. [passage omitted]

In 1365 about 646,000 tonnes of goods worth about 67 billion rials—about $902 million—were exported. Compared with 1364 this was an increase of 23 percent in volume and 64 percent in value. In the first 8 months of 1366, 824,000 tonnes of goods worth about 52 billion rials—$720 million—were exported which, compared with the same period last year, shows a 107-percent and 13-percent growth in volume and value respectively.

On the whole, in the first 8 months of this year the value of industrial goods exported rose by 408 percent, carpets by 41 percent, agricultural goods by 30 percent, and minerals by 30 percent, compared with the same period in 1365. I draw the attention of the honorable deputies to the carpet figures in particular. In the beginning of the year there were rumors to the effect that the government had introduced a new pricing structure and that the

production of carpets would be halted. At present, we have a 41-percent export growth, and the government has had large foreign currency revenues in that sector. [passage omitted]

In the next few years, with the commissioning of the revolution's important projects, 4 million tonnes of steel with a foreign currency saving of $400 million, 150,000 tonnes of chemicals with a saving of $50 million, 500,000 tonnes of petrochemicals with a saving of $250 billion, 300,000 tonnes of minerals with a saving of $150 million, 100,000 tonnes of machinery and vehicles with a saving of $100 million, and various types of medicines and medical equipment with a saving of $150 million will be produced in the country. In addition, there will be important projects in the fields of dam construction, irrigation, agriculture, and communications. The foreign currency saved as a result of these cannot be easily calculated.

Despite severe limitations on oil revenues in recent years, with the encouragement of the honorable Majlis the government gave strong support in foreign currency and other facilities to these projects to speed up operation dates. In 1365 about $630 million and in the first 9 months of this year about $700 million were allocated for the important projects of the revolution. This figure is expected to reach $1.05 billion by the end of this year. One of the good policies adopted by the government with the help of the Majlis was that it tried to prevent the reduction in foreign currency revenues affecting the important projects of the revolution and enabled investment in that sector to continue. Thank God, this has been accomplished.

None of the steps taken by the country toward gradual independence from oil revenues would justify neglecting the fight against the decline in foreign currency revenues and the defense of the rights of the Islamic Republic regarding oil markets. In 1366 one of our other fundamental moves was to thwart plots to disrupt international oil prices. As regards oil, the Western world is facing a ridiculous contradiction in its plots and propaganda. On the one hand they say that oil is no longer a vital element for world energy supplies and its price should fall; on the other hand they say that oil is a vital element in world energy supplies and their presence in the Persian Gulf to ensure a continuous flow of oil must increase. In both sides of this contradiction they are lying. Oil has not lost its value at all. If OPEC were purged of political motivations and freed from foreign influence—although it holds only 30 percent of the market and despite the fact that other forms of energy have been extensively developed—today it would be able to raise the price of oil to more than $30 a barrel. We can prove this claim; it is a reality which has strengthened our rightful positions in OPEC and has reduced the influence of the blackguard reactionaries in OPEC.

In the last year, thanks to the unstinting efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran, coordinated plots by the industrialized nations to reduce oil prices were defeated. This experience brought about three important changes. First, it was made clear that plummeting oil prices were not a natural development, because if this were a natural market event, it would not have been corrected in such a short period of time. Second, the ability of OPEC as an undeniable force was shown. The belief to the effect that the organization could control only a limited sector of the market and thus, unlike the past, could not hold supremacy in the market was rendered worthless thanks to successful efforts by OPEC in supporting agreed prices. Further, the role played by the Islamic Republic in discovering this extensive plot saved OPEC from the influence of the unwise tendencies, although much liked by colonialists, of the rulers of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia]. It restored wisdom and robust logic to OPEC policies. Of course, in bringing about this change, the opoosition of the reactionaries of the region (?played) a major part. [passage indistinct]

As a result of their ineptitude and abjectness before the Islamic Republic of Iran, the rulers of Hijaz and Kuwait were prepared to implement some measures whereby all other oil producers would suffer losses, solely in the hope that Iran would be damaged in this plot, as well. [passage omitted] This trend continued until the last OPEC session, when the reactionaries had the sole objective of halting the growing influence of the Islamic Republic. They sought to do this through an agreement on which Iran would abstain and to which Iraq would agree. However, this too was defeated. Efforts to defend fair oil prices must continue with diligence alongside the other important task of defending the Islamic Republic of Iran's quota in the oil market.

On the oil front, the enemy has lauched a two-pronged attack: One involves the plot to reduce oil prices, while the other lies in providing the Zionist Ba'thist regime with all the resources necessary to block our oil exports. The enemy has suffered for its mistaken belief that we would sell our aspiration for bread, and that, following the reduction of our foreign exchange revenues, we would turn our backs on our beliefs and integrity. They also thought they could shut off our oil exports, and it was on that assumption that they launched the most costly raids on our export outlets and oil lines. Despite the enemy's assumptions, our country's exports continued within the OPEC-agreed quota and oil-related revenues met the forecasts of this year's budget.

Iraq's inability to cut our oil exports may explain America's presence in the region this year. If today Kuwait is proclaiming America's defeat by calling for UN flags to replace those of the United States on its tankers, then that, too, is the product of the archsatan's inability. We have repeatedly declared our clear and logical policy, according to which the security of oil lanes and the Persian Gulf is indivisible. There can be peace in the region only if Iraq's mischief ends. UN flags solve nothing, and no one other than the regional powers will

work hard for area security. Aliens full of destructive greed, more destructive than the severing of our oil lanes, will get their hands on the region.

We have repeatedly expressed our clear and decisive policy toward confronting the archsatan's mischief in the Persian Gulf. We do so once again, now that the archsatan is about to launch fresh adventures in the region. No one should doubt our nation's resolve in the absolute pursuit of a policy of blow for blow. Today, with the talk of an arms embargo against Iran, we declare once more that the face America has lost will not be regained through such trickery.

We warn the United States and all countries that may be deceived by the United States, that the archsatan's efforts to win the UN Security Council's approval to search our commercial vessels for arms, a move designed solely to regain face after irreparable defeats, is a crude and dangerous plan that will set the whole region alight. Sacred Islam has given us the right to oppose with all our power anyone who may wish to disturb our merchant fleet under any pretext. No flag can stop our retaliation against any instigator country. We have repeatedly declared that we do not favor the expansion or continuation of our defensive war, but we are not ready to yield to aggression by aliens particularly inside our own territory.

Basically, any decision by the Security Council on an arms embargo against Iran will never have results beyond a loss of status for the council. Four months have passed since our president's historic speech at the United Nations General Assembly, and the Security Council has yet to reply to any of the logical reasoning from the Islamic Republic. After 7 years of being unable to punish the aggressor, it would be incredible if the Security Council were to take a step against the very country that was wronged. It would be incredible were the Security Council to have any standing after sanctioning such a decision and giving the United States a chance to cause additional insecurity in the region. It would be incredible if the Security Council were to think that its action would have the slightest effect on our iron determination to attain our just rights, now that the entire world has seen us resist the aliens' pressure. The more pressure we come under from the outside to dissuade us from our just defense, the greater will be our efforts and organization to end the task with victory.

In the first stage of intensified pressure, which began with the crisis over oil prices, the government implemented a plan dealing with the new conditions posed by our country's economic independence. Now, as 1366 draws to a close, the end of the implementation phase is near. The government, relying on the results obtained, can clearly see that with planning and hard work, the most intense efforts from the outside can be opposed. We thank God for this invaluable experience. The program for the country's new status of economic independence was put into effect at the very start of the international economic crisis, which lasted 2 years. The plan has five main objectives. Apart from the goal of correcting consumerist models, which has shown slow progress and must receive more serious attention in later phases, it has pursued the objectives of meeting war requirements as far as possible, making agriculture a priority as a low foreign exchange sector, continuing the correction of industrial production, and meeting general needs through stable prices and efforts to control prices.

Those are the five goals we announced. There is not enough time for me to go into detail about the results achieved for each objective. I will refer only to a few points. The government, in step and in line with our martyr-nurturing nation, has tried within the same framework to meet our war needs. One can say proudly that the stamp of war can be seen on the entire state apparatus. The fact that some 41 percent of expenditures in the general budget, and over 52 percent of current total allocations for the government have been earmarked for military and security affairs is further proof of the value and importance which the government attaches to the war as our country's most important problem.

In the current year, our work has focused on giving priority to defense, even in development projects. In this respect, we can speak of the 35 billion rials allocated for passive defense systems, and the 50 billion rials set aside for the construction of shelters. In addition, during the current year, hundreds of research, war, and defense projects are being implemented or have come to a close. The programs involve lecturers, university students, and university organizations across the country. All these are on top of the many other successes of our system of higher education. These accomplishments include the acceptance of 65,000 students, the training of 6,000 postgraduate students, 20,000 doctorate students, 1,000 specialists, 213,000 technical specialist students, and the launching of 8,000 new technical units.

The government is determined to place all its resources in the service of the war, side by side with our millions of self-sacrificing volunteers. With faith in God Almighty, those volunteers have declared their readiness to go to the fronts to end the lives of the Ba'thist aggressors in response to the declaration of the Supreme War Support Council.

The second goal in establishing new conditions was to give priority to agriculture and boost its output. According to current projections, agriculture will grow by 4 percent more than other sectors. As a result, the adjusted value of the agricultural sector's share of GNP will rise from 14.4 percent in 1364 to 17.7 percent in 1366. A detailed look at the agricultural sector shows that, following the policies designed in accordance with the new

conditions program, which seeks to ensure greater quantities of essential goods, the trend of growth will continue in comparison to 1364-65. This is despite problems stemming from a shortage of foreign reserves and a lack of production facilities in certain organizations. Apart from the wheat harvest, which fell from 7.5 million to 7 million tonnes due to the drought in the western part of the country, which lead to the loss of dry farm output, other crops did better. The rice harvest has risen from 2 million tonnes to 2.1 million, the sugarbeet crop grew from 3.9 million tonnes in 1364 to 5 million tonnes, and the potato crop has gone from 2 to 2.1 million tonnes. In 1365 and 1366, the growth in livestock production was also acceptable. Milk production, for instance, increased from 3.53 million tonnes to 3.85 million tonnes. Similar figures are available for other goods, but these few examples are enough.

As far as credit is concerned, in just the first 8 months of this year, the agriculture bank has loaned more than 132 billion rials to more than 100,000 farmers. The level of credit paid out in 1366 is 25 percent greater than the figure for the first 8 months of the previous year.

As far as soil and water operations are concerned, in addition to the implementation of various programs, the project to cover water channels has enjoyed special success. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Construction Jihad have used some 10 billion rials of credit for this purpose. Of course, the government feels that if there is to be serious progress in agriculture, there must be a deep change in the multilevel and scattered management of this sector, and movement toward a united level of management. This should be accompanied by an increase in the trend of capital investment in agriculture and livestock, and the income of the agricultural sector and farmers should grow. It should be accomplished through the use of the pricing mechanism and expansion of rural and processing industries.

The third goal of our program on new conditions of national economic independence is continued production and a corrected structure of industrial production. I will limit myself to examples of what has been done in the first 8 months of this year. These include the completion and inauguration of such important projects as the Iranian foundry industries, the production of diesel engine cases and parts for trucks, buses, and minibuses, generators, and the complete construction of electric motors for industry. The San'e company turns out finished small diesel engines for industrial and agricultural use. Other accomplishments include the start of operations to install vast industries such as Martyr Bahonar, which will produce all types of copper products, including sheets, rods, and pipes. Thus, we will not have to import copper and bronze goods next year. It is interesting to note that in order to accelerate the project due to its importance, equipment is being installed by Iranian installation companies while construction is in progress. [passage omitted]

Despite all foreign currency reserve problems, the industrial sector has been able to maintain the existing employment level and organize production using one seventh of the currency used annually during the period 1361-64 to the extent that essential commodities including medicine, food, stationery, tires, and others are supplied in an orderly and predetermined manner. It is obvious that in such circumstances and considering the large variety in these activities and the extensive need for foreign currency in this respect, we were faced with problems in other areas. However, what is important is the allocation of limited foreign reserves to areas that enjoy the utmost priority.

Other goals of the new budget program include supplying essential materials at fixed prices and controlling price levels. The honorable deputies are aware that the increased budget deficit coupled with the increased volume of money in society and the severe decline in foreign earnings could have damaging effects on our economic structure which is faced with an economic embargo, the imposed war, and all the side effects, such as the war of the cities, attacks against commercial shipping, and dozens of other plots. The rapid increase in the price of goods is one of the most important results of this situation.

The serving government, realizing that most of the burden of inflation would fall on the oppressed of society, decided to neutralize this pressure by concentrating its efforts in three categories: drawing up appropriate monetary policies, ensuring fixed prices for essential goods, and stopping unchecked price increases. As far as monetary policies are concerned, the government tried to organize credit allocation in such a way as to limit such allocation—considering the current level of budget deficit—to stop any unchecked growth in the level of money while ensuring that the needs of production sectors are met. Therefore, the credit policies for 1366 have been designed so that the growth of money supply in the private sector will not exceed 13.3 percent.

In addition, efforts have been concentrated on absorbing this money supply as much as possible into the banking system through the adoption of encouraging and propaganda policies. The increase of public savings in the banks has risen from 6,825,800,000,000 rials at the end of 1364 to 9,014,000,000,000 rials at the end of Sharivar 1366 [month ending 20 September], thus showing the success of this effort.

I would like to point out at this stage that the adoption of correct monetary policies requires unity in the monetary system of the country, and that the activities of parallel monetary systems that have developed contrary to the Constitution are preventing the government from achieving its goals in this respect.

Another achievement of the government was to supply essential commodities to the people in order to neutralize the pressure of inflation. A noteworthy figure in this

connection is the allocation of an extra $700 million for the provision of essential commodities. Other basic measures undertaken in this connection include the implementation of the plan for issuing special vouchers to state employees, workers, the esteemed families of the martyrs, the refugees of the imposed war, and the state and military pensioners, a total of approximately 5.5 million families. Distribution of commodities under this plan has had some positive effect in reducing the expenses incurred by the said strata.

During the early days of this year the government, with the permission of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, began its efforts to control and fix prices to prevent hoarding and profiteering. At first, some people were saying: The existing inflation is a well-rooted phenomenon of the country's economic situation, and one cannot harness economic science [as heard] by relying on the implementation of policies, no matter how sound they are. This pessimism arose because they had overlooked this important point: The fight against profiteering was a measure undertaken merely to protect the most deprived strata of society who depend on the more essential goods. It seems natural that the objective of this move may not be to control the price of all commodities. Figures and statistics show the government's success in this respect, and we mention some of them in this summary.

The growth of the total index of prices and services in Farvardin [21 March to 20 April] began at 2.2 percent compared to the previous month. It reached 3.2 and 2.7 percent in the months of Ordibehesht and Tir [2 months following Farvardin]. However, following the implementation of our plan to control prices and inflation, the index dropped in the month of Mordad [23 July-22 August] when compared to the previous month. You should bear in mind that last year, during the months of Mordad, Shahrivar, Mehr, and Aban [23 July-21 November 1986] the index grew by 1 percent, 4.2 percent, 2.8 percent, and 4.4 percent respectively, while during the same months this year, the rate of growth of the index was minus 0.5 percent, 0.6 percent, 1.2 percent, and 1.8 percent. It is worth noting that the index includes all consumer goods and services in urban areas, while the recent plan does not cover all these items.

To gain a better appreciation of the effects of the plan, you must note the changes in the index of gold and currency reserves and the change in the index of certain services most affected by the plan. The price index for food items grew each month before the plan took effect. In contrast, it began to fall in the months of Mordad and Shahrivar [23 July-21 September], dropping by 5.7 percent and 2.1 percent. Its growth fell to 0.3 and 0.4 in the months of Mehr and Aban [22 September-21 November], bearing in mind that in the same months last year, the growth in the index for the months of Shahrivar, Mehr, and Aban was 5.6 percent, 1.4 percent, and 6.8 percent respectively. Of course, we thought the increase might have been far greater had the government failed to introduce its changes to control prices. In the food group, the price index for the months of Mordad to Aban was minus 1 percent, 5.9 percent, 1.6 percent, and 6.5 percent respectively last year, while for the same months this year, the figures were minus 5.2 percent, minus 1.7 percent, 2 percent, and 0.4 percent. [passage omitted]

At this point, I must say that the government's steps against profiteering and inflation have been criticized by three groups: First, the profiteers, and more importantly, by individuals who, despite their support for wealthy money-makers and in order to defeat the state, invite the government to adopt leftist and extremist measures. I must also explain that in light of the deep-rooted difficulties that have beset our economy, we cannot consider price control as a temporary measure, which only borrows certain executive organs of the state. Rather, we should think of setting up a proper organization with defined responsibilities for the permanent supervision of prices. Basically, it is correct to pay attention to all the religious decrees and opinions of the imam of the ummah as the everlasting foundations. [passage omitted]

The government is proud of the fact that, in emulation of the imam, it has never had the slightest doubt about supporting the oppressed and deprived. I believe that a government can consider itself Islamic only if it follows the Islamic policy of backing the deprived and the general public. Today we are offering the honorable Majlis the budget bill for 1367. This bill is the result of the efforts and experience of a generation of managers in the country, who have grown under these conditions and have gained their experience amid these many hardships. The notable victories we mentioned are nothing but the results of the work and sacrifice of this generation, which is one of the nation's capable children. [passage omitted]

It is as clear as day that economic resources alone will never bring self-sufficiency and growth to our country. It is Islam's holy philosophy that can ensure our national independence by guiding a generation of powerful managers and removing the greedy hands of foreigners from its wealth. Thus, it will allow our economic resources to be used for the benefit of our people. A generation led by such a philosophy and having such goals should be helped. The minimum level of assistance lies in making your trust the tool of their service. The minimum level of aid lies in adopting a mode of supervision that gives the best moral and material results. The assumption that the best form of supervision is through the most extensive bureaucracy is incorrect. What we see as the growth of accountability in all organizations, including government firms, cannot stop violations and corruption. However, it can and does reduce the executive power of the system. In conveying my gratitude to the esteemed Majlis for its approval of the latest law of accountability, I reflect the government's hope to the representatives of the nation that in the not too distant future, sections of the law that can impede the activities of the executive power toward the noble goals of the revolution are

corrected with the help of the revolutionary majlis. The serving government expects the Majlis to eradicate unnecessary red tape, dismantling complicated administrative practices and simplifying the management system of the country through allowing the government to organize the executive power. Examples would include the combining of government organization, dissolving unnecessary organizations, or issuing executive directives for government organizations and companies.

The budget for 1367 is now being presented to the respected assembly, and I would like to outline briefly the main topics in the budget:

1. The efforts of the government will continue toward sound revenue generation. The share of nonoil products in all government income that in the period 1353-57 averaged 18.7 percent gradually showed an upward trend following the revolution and reached 54 percent in 1365. We forecast that in 1366-67 this will increase to more than 65 percent. A point that is important as far as government income is concerned is the improvement in the mix of income from tafxation during recent years. In this respect we can specially note the considerable increase in earnings from income fax and the improvement in the mix of incomes from the tax on income that in the first 8 months of 1366 exceeded 7.5 percent, its highest in the last few years. The ratio of tax to income—income on earnings—which in the last few years never exceeded 56 percent reached approximately 91.4 percent in the first 8 months of this year. In 1367 it is estimated that this will increase 1.4 times.

2. In order to balance the government budget as much as possible the serious activities of the government in the last few years in this respect will continue in 1367. These activities have relied partly on a gradual reduction of the budget in general and partly on necessary changes within various parts of the budget. Considering the fact that the volume of current expenses in 1367 has been estimated at the same level as 1366, this effectively means a reduction in cost and maintaining a fixed price. [sentence as heard] It is necessary to point out however that the reduction in current costs is not extensive and that supplying the costs related to the imposed war as well as current education and health costs will continue to enjoy a special priority as in this current year. In this respect a 14-percent increase in the estimated cost of education which includes general, technical and vocational training as well as higher education and an 8-percent increase in the estimated cost of health care compared to those figures in 1366 are noteworthy.

3. In estimating the government development credit for 1367, considering the priorities outlined in the budget paper, efforts have been concentrated on supplying the maximum possible budget needed for all projects that are likely to be completed in 1367. As far as important and major projects are concerned, the allocation of credit from the development budget and the use of the mechanism of Addendum 22 will ensure the maxiumum availability of credit within the absorption level of such projects. Considering the limitations mentioned in the total volume of the budget and the need for increasing the quality and quantity of health care and training maximum effort has been concentrated on supplying the needed credit for investment in these sectors. [passage omitted]

4. For the first time in recent years the government executive plan in 1377 is being offered to the Majlis together with the budget for next year now. The plan notes the quality of the development credit goals and special policies related to new opportunities and problems and major bottlenecks in various parts of the budget.

5. As a result of the government's efforts in recent years to balance the national income and foreign currency expenditure, and considering the role played by the need for foreign reserves in the national budget and the decisionmaking process of the Islamic Republic Government, the foreign currency budget bill for 1367 is also being offered to the Majlis together with the national budget bill.

In conclusion, I consider it my duty to praise the round-the-clock efforts of all those in every organization, particularly the Ministry of Plan and Budget, who played a part in the preparation of the budget bill.

I hope that the bill for the 1367 national budget will play a most effective part in resolving the country's problems with the help of the respected deputies and those serving within the executive branch following its approval.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Death of Member of Bombing Group Announced

LD271748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The Public Relations Department of Tehran Islamic Prosecutor's office announced: On the basis of a verdict issued by Tehran's Islamic Revolution Court, 'Ali Baba-Moradi, son of Karim, a citizen of Marivan, was sentenced to death for planting bombs in various parts of Tehran. The sentence was carried out publicly this afternoon in Tehran's Hashemi Avenue, the scene of an explosion in 1985.

He was accused of the following crimes:

Membership in a bombing network affiliated with the intelligence organization of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Transportation of bombs and explosives from Iraq to Iran with his vehicle in exchange for cash.

Participation in setting off bombs in [word indistinct] during Tasu'a ceremonies in 1985 as well as in other parts of Tehran which caused the martyrdom or wounding of a large number of innocent people.

Iraqi Spy Hanged in Tehran 28 Dec

LD281707 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA—An Iraqi spy, responsible for a booby-trapped car explosion in the capital during 1985, was hanged in public Monday at the very site of his dastardly deed, reported the prosecutor general's office here Monday.

The report said the spy Jamal Minooie [name as received] from Marivan, Kurdistan Province parked an explosive laden car at a public square in western Tehran on August 18, 1985 which went off injuring 30 unsuspecting citizens. The blast shattered window panes within a 150-meter radius.

Minooie was actively involved in subversive activities including bomb planting and smuggling of explosives and weapons into Iran from Iraq. He was handsomely paid by the Ba'thist intelligence service for his criminal actions, the report said.

Earlier on Saturday, another Iraqi terrorist responsible for a bomb blast near the Ferdowsi Square in central Tehran last year, in which dozens of people were martyred and injured, was executed at the site of the explosion.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives With Al-Asad Message

LD290546 Tehran IRNA in English 0543 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Tuesday morning. He is carrying a message from the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, to President Khamene'i.

The Syrian envoy said upon arrival at the airport here that he is in Tehran to follow up earlier talks with Iranian officials.

Montazeri Receives Palestinian Scholar

LD271740 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Qom, Dec. 27, IRNA—Combatant Palestinian Alim Shaykh Ibrahim Gunaym met Ayatollah 'Ali Montazeri, the future leader of the Islamic Revolution here Saturday, and thanked him for his call to the Muslim ummah to stage mass rallies in support of the Palestinian uprising.

Millions of Muslims both inside the Islamic Republic and in many other countries enthusiastically answered the grand ayatollah's call by staging massive rallies in support of the Palestinian Muslims last Friday.

Ayatollah Montazeri replying to the Palestinian alim expressed hope that these rallies will prepare the ground for a hundred-million strong march of armed Muslims from all over the Muslim world towards Masjid Al-'Aqsa and Qods to liberate them from the clutches of the Zionist usurpers.

On the past alienation of Palestinian youth from genuine Islamic culture, the ayatollah noted that forced exile from their homeland coupled with the denial of their rights had made Palestinians easy prey to the indoctrination and propogation of leftist and other non-Islamic movements.

It was instilled into their minds that no other power but the leftist movements and the communist countries can face Israel and the U.S. while in reality it is not thus, he added.

However the phenomenon of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, pointed the ayatollah, has helped disprove these absurd theories, and shown the world that the only alternative of delivering nations in chain, is Islamic.

Velayati Comments on Visit to Libya

LD281855 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 28 Dec 87

["Velayati Terms Libyan Visit Fruitful"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned here Monday after a three-day official visit to Tripoli and talks with high ranking Libyan officials.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad International Airport, the foreign minister told reporters that a joint Tehran-Tripoli commission would be held soon.

Velayati noting that the Tripoli government reaffirmed its support for the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis aggressions of enemies, said Iran too, stands by Libya against U.S. threats in northern Africa.

The foreign minister said regional and international circles have attached great importance to his Tripoli visit adding that political contacts between the two countries will continue in the future.

Velayati held talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libya's second in command Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, his counterpart Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi and some Palestinian officials.

A joint communique was released at the end of Velayati's visit which emphasized on the expansion of Tehran-Tripoli friendly ties and voiced support for the Palestinian Muslims mass uprising against the Zionist regime in the occupied lands.

Velayati Views Events After Amman Conference

LD261953 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] In connection with the results of the great, countrywide marches yesterday by the people of our homeland and other Muslims in supporting the uprising of the people of occupied Palestine against the usurper Zionists, which were staged in accordance with the proposal of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, our reporter interviewed Foreign Minister Velayati, to which we draw your attention in this section of the news reports.

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The signs of very strong and hopeful movements began during the weeks after the Amman meeting, moves such as the kite episode. This was the outcome of the joint activities of the Hizballah of Lebanon and Palestinian Muslims and included the attack on an Israeli vessel with more than 25 Israeli soldiers and officers, and the attack against an Israeli boat at the time when the Amman conference was convening. The Amman conference demonstrated that the reactionary Arab leaders and compromising Palestinians and old militants from Arab countries who have reached an impasse, have ultimately reached the same position, that is, giving up hope for Palestine. We have reached the following conclusions after assessing the Amman conference:

1. Although the Camp David accords have been signed by the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian nation does not accept it, nor does the military personnel of Egypt. We saw some very hopeful initiatives: the operations the military conducted against the soldiers of the Israeli regime, the last of which was the downing of an Israeli aircraft.

2. Even if Arab leaders have not done anything for the liberation of Palestine, the Arab nations have not become despondent and are continuing along their own path.

3. Even if some of the compromising leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization have sold their hopes for Palestine when it was convenient for them and for their personal gain, the people of Palestine are not prepared to sell their Islamic and national interests. This is what we can deduce from all these actions. What happened in Iran today, and during the past few days in many Islamic countries, shows that the Islamic ummah, despite the obstacles it faces, continues to regard the hopes for Palestine as a sacred Islamic aspiration. This movement is a deeply rooted movement; it is rooted in the depth of the Muslim people of Palestine and in the depths of the history of Islam, that is, it has a history that goes back 1,400 years. These are the preliminaries to a stormy [tufandeh] movement which will not only not be put down in the future but rather will spread to all occupied regions and will ultimately bring about the liberation of Palestine. This is what we think.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, in the past few days we have witnessed the positions taken by some countries that were even (?hostile) to Islam—they were condemning the Jerusalem-occupying regime, and included the U.S. regime which condemned Israel this time. In spite of the fact that their enmity to Islam is no secret, I wonder if you would kindly comment on the motivations behind the governments of these countries.

[Velayati] The condemnation of the Israeli moves by the United States and Britain and (?some other) Western (?powers) is not due to their humanitarian sentiments but because they are worried about the crude moves by the Israeli regime. They are almost certain that these continued crude moves on the part of the puppets heading the Israeli Government will not hinder the Islamic movement but will instead speed it up and will ultimately endanger all Western interests in the region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mohtashemi, IRGC Head on Palestine 'Uprising'

LD250207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] This afternoon, a weekly political roundtable discussion of the second network of the Islamic Republic of Iran Profile was held to review the recent developments in occupied Palestine. It was attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

According to our correspondent, in the course of the roundtable discussion Mohtashami noted reasons behind the recent anti-Zionist protests by Muslims of Palestine and the continued uprisings, as well as methods of the occupying regime in [Jerusalam] in confronting the uprising. Mohtashami said: This uprising began several months ago following recent operations by Muslim Palestinian revolutionaries in the Gaza Strip which led to a military commander of the city being killed. It led to savage attacks by the occupiers of Jerusalem against the Palestinian people, martyring and injuring a number of them and led to attacks against military forces of the Zionist regime by the empty-handed Palestinian Muslims.

In the course of the roundtable discussions, Mohsen Rezai'e, the IRGC commander, replied to a question about experience gained by the popular forces during the imposed war, as well as transferring this experience. He said: Phased plans by Palestinian parties and political groupings and also successes of the Lebanese Hizballah in their struggles against the Zionist regime and against

the global arrogance in the region resulted in the Palestinians' becoming aware of a special tactic—the experience of the Islamic forces gained during the imposed war.

At the conclusion of the roundtable discussion, Interior Minister Mohtashami remarked on deputy leader Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's proposals to stage marches in support of the Palestinian people. He said: A new motivation and initiative has been observed in Islamic countries. Pakistan, India, Syria, and Lebanon witnessed demonstrations and marches supporting the above proposal. Inside Palestine too, the Muslim Palestinians will demonstrate on their way to their Friday prayer sites, marching to protest against the Zionist regime. The march will be a prelude to confrontation by the Muslims of the world against the United States and the Zionist regime in the region.

Heavy Industries Minister Returns From India

LD260906 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi returned home Friday after a week-long trip to India at the head of a 58-man delegation.

Speaking to IRNA at Tehran airport Nabavi said his talks with several Indian ministers on bilateral relations, Tehran-India economic ties and ways to expand them were productive.

A letter of understanding was signed between the two countries' officials. While in India the delegation inspected 15 factories and industrial complexes in different Indian cities.

Nabavi added the two countries share identical approaches to self-sufficiency and severing ties of dependence on foreign powers.

More on letter of understanding: Nabavi said it calls for expansion of bilateral relations which, he said, considering the industrial cooperation between the two sides, is of great importance.

According to the document 18 Indian and 30 Iranian companies will cooperate on industrial projects and 23 companies from India and 33 from Iran will exchange their industrial products.

Nabavi said that exchange of experts, joint research in new industrial fields and observing standards accepted by the two sides, were also discussed with Indian officials, which will further increase the level of mutual cooperation.

Iran and India cooperate in various economic and industrial fields and India has expressed willingness to widen scope of its cooperation with Iran vis-a-vis reconstruction of the ruins of the Iraqi-imposed-war.

Iran will purchase tea, meat and wheat from India in return for oil and has recently decided to import industrial machinery from that country.

SDAR President's Message Condemns U.S Aggression

LD271940 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz condemned U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf and its direct interference in the Iraqi-imposed war.

In a message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i, Abd al-'Aziz stressed on solidarity of SADR nation with the Islamic Republic in countering the aggression of the U.S.

Elsewhere the message said the U.S., being a member of the U.N. Security Council, has not hesitated to jeopardize the region with the dangers of the spread of war through its intentional aggression and direct intervention in the imposed war.

The U.S. aggression will practically endanger global peace and security, it added.

Naming Aggressor Prerequisite for Peace

LD261512 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] A UN Security Council statement has emphasized the need for the UN secretary general to continue his efforts to implement Resolution No 598.

The members of the council expressed anxiety because of the slow progress in consultations between the secretary general and the authorities of the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi regime to gain their acceptance of this resolution. The members then demanded that the implementation of Resolution No 598, which was drafted by the permanent members, be completed.

This is the first time since the United Nations was established that five permanent members of the Security Council drew up the draft of a resolution and approved it, following a series of political maneuvers in the name of the permanent and nonpermanent members.

In such conditions the Islamic Republic is in reality dealing with a Security Council consisting of five members. Exerience has shown that the majority of these five members, especially the United States, have directly or indirectly during the lifespan of the imposed war supported Iraq.

After the end of the third of round talks between Larijani and the secretary general of the United Nations, the U.S. authorities initiated moves in order to place an arms

embargo on the Islamic Republic. Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has demanded that an arms embargo be imposed on Iran on the imaginary pretext that the Islamic Republic has not accepted the Resolution No 598.

The U.S. State Department is accusing the Islamic Republic of violating Resolution No 598 at a time when the United States itself was the first to violate this resolution. Soon after the approval of Resolution No 598, the Washington authorities violated Clause 5 of this resolution and embarked on sending troops and creating tension in the Persian Gulf.

There are still fundamental differences among the non-permanent members as to the method of an arms embargo against Iran. Unlike the Westerners, the Soviet authorities raise the view that any action must take place after the departure of Western forces from the Persian Gulf and after establishing a UN force in the region.

Alongside such differences of opinions, political circles occasionally suggest that in order to impose an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic, the United Nations forces must have both land and maritime bases. Of course, it does not appear that this will require the approval of the Soviet Union, because the majority of UN forces are composed of Western forces and their presence on the territory of the Islamic Republic will in fact be the same as their presence on Soviet and Afghan borders.

U.S. attempts to impose an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic are, in fact, intended to force the Islamic ummah of Iran to compromise. Yet, as our country's authorities have said, first of all the aggressor must be recognized and punished before anything else if a just and lasting peace is to be attained.

Commentary on UN Security Council Statement

NC281122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0635 GMT 27 Dec 87

[From the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] In his Friday sermons, the esteemed speaker of the Islamic Majlis and acting Friday imam of Tehran gave a clear-cut answer to the UN Security Council statement. He announced that whenever our nation observes that the Security Council wishes to exert greater pressure, it can expedite matters itself by stepping up its activities. Today, we are acting on the principle that we should achieve results with the minimum of bloodshed. However, if circumstances dictate, we can unleash a river of blood right up to Baghdad!

You, members of the Security Council, are trying to intimidate us with veiled threats, saying that if the efforts of the UN secretary-general and others in the past weeks do not yield results, you will resort to the adoption of another resolution to apply force and other similar measures. These are words which you have repeatedly said and acted upon, but to no avail. We hope that the UN Security Council, which is, in essence, a puppet in the hands of a few world powers, will stop and think and try to comprehend that the Iranian nation will not stop fighting until it attains its lawful rights and victory.

The UN Security Council issued a statement declaring it is determined to take further steps to implement Resolution No 598, which calls for a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. However, this statement was issued at a brief and ordinary session and did not specify if there were a consensus among its 15 members for sanctions against Iran—which demands the condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor as a rerequisite for a cease-fire. This statement merely repeats Clause 10 in Resolution No 598, saying that the members of the UN Security Council declare their resolve to take further measures for the implementation of the resolution.

Interior Minister Meets Afghan Rebel Leader

LD282050 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—An Afghan mujahideen leader Qazi Muhammad Amin [name as received] criticized the spirit of factionalism and the U.S. connections of certain Afghan elements, in a meeting with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here today.

In the meeting Hoj. Mohtashemi termed struggles of the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied lands as well as the Islamic revolution of Iran as "models of emulation for Islamic and liberation movements."

Triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran proved that victory can be achieved without reliance on the superpowers, said the minister.

Seminar on Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan

LD261849 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 26 Dec 87

[TEXT] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—A one-day seminar on the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan, was held here Saturday on the eve of the 9th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The seminar reviewed the struggles of Afghan Mujahidin as well as ways to achieve the final victory.

In the seminar, attended by representatives of Afghan opposition groups and freedom movements around the world, speakers outlined Afghan Muslims' struggles against the occupiers, stressing that the Mujahidin will continue their campaigns until they attain their Islamic goals.

Spokesman for the council of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan Mohaqqeq Afshari [name as received], told the seminar that the Soviet Union is unable to strip Afghan Muslim people of their faith in Islam through political ploys.

He said that Soviet and U.S. leaders will never manage to scheme over Afghanistan fate, noting that the type of the future system of government in Kabul will be determined only by the Mujahidin and blood of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Another speaker was Hojjat ol-Eslam Mo'ezzi [name as received], who said that today the awakening of Muslims from Eastern Asia to the heart of Africa has terrified the global arrogance, which is vainly trying to suppress Islamic movementsi n Muslim countries. It is true that both the superpowers are now afraid of an eventual victory of Afghan Mujahidin in Afghanistan, he added.

The Afghan Muslim nation will not be satisfied with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from their country, but will continue their struggle until the rule of Islam prevails in Afghanistan and an Islamic system of Government is established there, noted Mo'ezzi.

Mo'ezzi described the proposed return of deposed Afghan ruler Zahir Shah to the political scene of that country as a "joint plot" engineered by eastern and western arrogance.

Among other personalities, addressing the seminar, was head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqr Hakim.

The SAIRI head, outlining various Soviet political ploys aimed at strengthening its domination over Iraq and Afghanistan, said that the Soviets in their desperation have now resorted to the most reactionary people like Zahir Shah besides the U.S.S.R. is voicing support for reactionary heads of Persian Gulf states and helping U.S. in its fight against Islam, he noted.

In his address to the seminar, head of the Islamic Association of Afghan Mujahidin, Qazi [name as received] stressed that it is incumbent upon all Muslims, either Arab, Persian, Turk, African or Asian, to help their brethren in Afghanistan in defending Islam.

Amin [name as received] also blamed the deposed Afghan ruler Zahir Shah for preparing the ground for Soviet aggression on Afghanistan and for damaging that country's sovereignty by granting eco-military concessions to the Moscow government, during his rule.

The eastern arogance had fancied that its occupation troops could suppress Afghanistan's Islamic movement in a short period of time, but the Mujihidin have disproved all Soviet calculations by heroic resistance for the eight years, Amin said.

He added that the killing of 40,000 Soviet soldiers, destruction of 3,000 tanks and downing of 400 planes over the past years are sufficient proofs to the ever-increasing defeat of the occupation forces.

IRGC's Foruzandeh on Progress in Ordnance

NC270930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Foruzandeh, head of the triple IRGC Forces Headquarters, said in an interview with the Central News Unit in Bandar-e 'Abbas that the extraordinary response to the plan for scheduling the dispatch of forces is an appropriate precursor to the organization of the people's forces for delivering lethal blows to the Iraqi regime. He said: The dates for the dispatch of volunteers to the fronts will be computerized. He also referred to the progress in the Ordnance Department of the Corps, especially in the production and duplication of missiles and sophisticated weapons, saying: I can proudly state—and the people of the world also admit this—that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in a far better position than it was in 1980 in Shahrivar [23 August—22 September]. Now it is able to dictate the conditions of war from a position of strength.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Blackout in Iraqi Province

LD291012 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Two high voltage power masts were demolished on Iraq's Kirkuk-Al-Sulaymaniyah road in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province by Muslim combatants causing total blackout in most parts of the province on Saturday.

Ramadan headquarters, center of Irregular operations of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported that the operations were carried out by a unit of the ninth Badr division.

Meanwhile, the Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of Iraq captured eight Iraqi soldiers and seized some of their light and heavy weapons in an ambush on Tuza-Khurmatu road in Salah al-din Province a few days ago.

A vehicle was demolished during the operations.

Communique No 3,064

LD281621 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3064th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic's Air Force, in accordance with international marine laws, succesafully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday in support of the Navy.

Iraqi troops suffered substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the battlefields in artillery and mortar duels with Iran's Muslim combatants yesterday.

Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on several Iraqi key bridges and some motor pools throughout the western fronts Sunday, setting ablaze a large number of enemy vehicles.

In Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, western and southern sectors, several Iraqi tanks were destroyed and enemy fire was silenced yesterday when hit by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

A number of Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate iranian positions in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin and Yebis, western and southern sectors, Sunday suffered several casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian artillery fire checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Talaiyeh and areas overlooking Mehran, southern and western fronts, and also movement of enemy motorized columns in areas opposite Zobeydah and Varmehraz [name as received] southern sector Sunday, concluded the communique.

Correction to Khomeyni's Amended Will

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Contents of Khomeyni's 'Amended Will'" published in the 18 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 51: paragraph four reads: Khomeyni also announces that he had a revelation that he will die in the next Persian year which starts in September 1988. He says that he expects to die 2 months after the new Persian year begins, which means that his death will take place between October and November next year. [months as published]... (supplying editorial notation)

Nepal

AFP: Government Bans Student Meeting

BK240034 Hong Kong AFP in English 0000 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 23 (AFP)—The local authorities Wednesday banned the third day of a conference of the Nepal Students Union (Nepal Vidhyarthi Sangh) at the state-run Tri Chandra College here.

The students were to elect their president and other office bearers following a planned public meeting at the Tri Chandra campus, student sources said.

About 200 riot police were deployed and the conference venue was cordoned off, they said.

The students said they would hold the final day of their conference Thursday at the head offices of the outlawed Nepali Congress Party without any "fanfare."

The students held the second day of the conference Tuesday at Tri Bhuvan University despite the dispatch of over 200 riot police to discourage them, the sources said.

They passed three major resolutions on the country's education system and on political and economic issues.

The political resolution demanded the lifting of a ban on all political parties and the release of all political prisoners.

They called on the government to nationalise all university education and ensure academic freedom.

The students also expressed their concern at the recent alleged intrusion by Indian police into Nepalese territory bordering the troubled Darjeeling District.

Meanwhile, more than 50 left-wing students have been arrested following their attempt to hold a "black flag" demonstration at Pulchok to denounce the death of a high school student on Sunday, sources said.

The student was killed as they attempted to hold a demonstration at Jhapa to protest against India's alleged expulsion of some 100,000 people of Nepalese descent from Meghalaya.

Riot police Tuesday surrounded the engineering campus at Pulchok and arrested at least a dozen left-wing student leaders. Further arrests were made Wednesday, student sources said.

Following the arrests Tuesday, students belonging to the All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union staged a demonstration and threw stones at police sent to break up the protest, local officials said.

Radical elements of the banned Nepal Communist Party have called for a general strike here Sunday to denounce the expulsions from Meghalaya and the death of the student who they say was killed when police opened fire.

Left-wing students said they will support the strike call, adding that many indiscriminate arrests had been made in Jhapa and other districts of Saptari and Rajbiraj since Sunday.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq on Afghan 'Interim Government'

DW291010 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2045 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Interview with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by reporter Heinz Medlitzky on the "Heute-Journal" program; in English with superimposed German translation; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ziaul Haq] The only thing left unresolved in Geneva was the timetable. However, in our direct contacts with the Soviet Union and through our other channels, we rightly saw that the schedule for the withdrawal is of no importance. The Soviets could begin their pullout tomorrow if they wanted to. However, their real worry is the future role of Afghanistan, once they have left. That is important to them.

[Medlitzky] Are they also afraid of what will happen to their friends in Afghanistan?

[Ziaul Haq] I am quite certain of that. They are worried about their friends, and about what Afghanistan's future will be.

[Medlitzky] In your opinion, why are the Russians ready to withdraw at all now? Has it become too expensive for them?

[Ziaul Haq] Mr Medlitzky, I believe it is getting very expensive for them, for given the loss of human lives and the losses among Soviet troops, we can say that the cost has become extraordinarily high. The losses of equipment are unbelievably high. From a political point of view, Afghanistan is hindering Gorbachev's plans to play the role of international peacemaker. Taking those three things into account, I think we can trust Gorbachev when he says the Soviet Union intends to leave Afghanistan. Your next question would probably be why we are willing to facilitate an orderly Soviet retreat, given the fact that the Soviet Union invaded the country without having been asked. Our reason is this: Time is on the Russians' side. Although I think they must endure a great deal, their staying power seems greater than that of the Afghan resistance fighters and their friends. In that context, we can say that if the Soviet Union decides to withdraw, there must be an interim government in Afghanistan, one that enjoys the confidence of the resistance fighters and refugees. In addition, we in Pakistan proceed from the premise, and I think we can convince the mujahidin of this, that such an interim government should also include those in power today.

President Backs Afghan Self-Determination

BK290246 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Speaking at a dinner in Islamabad last night, the president said that Pakistan supports the Afghan people's view that their country's true identity and Islamic character should be restored. He noted that, through their many sacrifices, the Afghan people have made it clear to the occupying forces that they cannot be stripped of their right to self-determination, regardless of the strength marshaled against them.

The president hosted the banquet in honor of the delegations to the Afghanistan Conference. The president explained that, according to Pakistan's position, the Afghan people should have the opportunity to decide their fate on the basis of their own wishes and aspirations. Pakistan has provided shelter to Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds and in the Islamic spirit. He also lauded the cooperation and support of Islamic countries in supplying aid to Afghan refugees.

In his opening address, the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir said this conference, organized by the Tehrik-i-Istihkam-i-Pakistan and the World Muslim League, was the first of its type in Pakistan.

A delegation from the Afghanistan Conference led by Shaykh (Muhammad Mahmud Aswaf) called on the president in Islamabad last evening and briefed him on the conference proceedings.

YAR President Concludes Official Visit

Makes Departure Statement

JN242030 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, left Islamabad this morning after a 3-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During his stay, the president held cordial and fraternal talks with his brother General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and other senior Pakistani officials. His discussions were designed to promote and consolidate relations between the two brotherly countries and peoples. He also familiarized himself with the tremendous progress Pakistan has made in various fields. [passage omitted]

Before his departure, the president made a statement to the press. He noted: Our visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was a good opportunity for us to hold talks with our brother officials led by His Excellency President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. We discussed everything of

interest to the two fraternal countries, with emphasis on the promotion of our brotherly ties and the expansion of our fields of cooperation and coordination in a mutually beneficial way.

During our stay, we exchanged views on the state of our Islamic nation, as well as the dangerous plots planned by its enemies. Their conspiracies seek to weaken our nation, undermine its will, and prevent it from reaching its goals of prosperity, stability, and progress for its peoples. The opinions exchanged reflected an eagerness to reach a joint view and common position on the various dangers and challenges facing our Islamic nation. Praise be to God, our views on every subject discussed were identical. The results of this trip were positive. They will open new horizons for cooperation and coordination in a manner that will bring benefits to both fraternal countries and the entire Islamic nation.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their warm welcome and hospitality. We wish his excellency continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Pakistani people additional progress and prosperity. We also hope that the close ties between our two fraternal peoples will continue to prosper and move ahead. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Beijing

BK240636 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has reaffirmed his country's wholehearted support for Pakistan's efforts to reach a political settlement of the Afghan issue. Such a solution will enable Afghan refugees to return to their homes with honor and dignity. He made the comment to newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Beijing at the end of his 3-day state visit to Pakistan.

The YAR president described his talks with Pakistani leaders as very useful. He said he had exchanged views with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on international issues of mutual interest, as well as bilateral matters. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih thanked the president, prime minister, government, and people of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded his delegation. He was seen off at the airport by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Federal ministers, ministers of state, members of parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior officials were also present. The airport ceremony included a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor comprising smartly dressed contingents from the three services.

Economic Accords Reported

JN271331 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The news agency SABA' has learned that during the visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by Brother President leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a number of bilateral agreements on technical and economic cooperation were signed. These accords call for the fraternal Islamic Republic of Pakistan to provide our country with the technical expertise necessary to support several development projects to be implemented as part of the third 5-year development plan.

The formation of a joint ministerial committee was also approved to define areas of cooperation between the two countries. These accords were signed for Yemen by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, and for Pakistan by Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Joint Communique Issued

JN251018 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Dec 87

["Text" of YAR-Pakistani joint communique issued in Sanaa and Islamabad on 24 December on the official visit of YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 22 to 24 December]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 30 Rabi' al-Thani to 2 Jumada al-Ula 1408, corresponding to 22-24 December 1987.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the members of his delegation were given a warm official and popular welcome, which reflects the profound ties and friendly relations that bind the two fraternal Muslim countries within a common ideology, culture, and history.

His excellency the president was accompanied by a senior delegation that included the following brothers: 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, central planning chairman, and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Husayn al-Maqtami, member of the Consultative Council and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Sinan Abu Luhum, member of the Constituent

People's Assembly and member of the Standing Committee; and Brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, chief of the presidential office and member of the Standing Committee.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Pakistani Prime Minister Brother Mohammad Khan Junejo. Representatives of the two countries held high-level talks in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih briefed his brother, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Pakistani Prime Minister Brother Mohammad Khan Junejo on the YAR's many political, economic, and social achievements. These were accomplished so as to lay the foundations of a modern state on democratic bases and popular participation in political work and economic and social development. This, in turn, was done within the National Charter, founded on the injunctions and principles of Islam and the six principles of the immortal revolution of 26 September 1962.

His Excellency President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Pakistani Prime Minister Brother Mohammad Khan Junejo also briefed His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the political, economic, social, and other achievements of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. These accomplishments promote national progress and development in accordance with the principles and tenets of the blessed Islamic shari'a. Pakistan has made great strides in the codification and application of these principles and basic beliefs in the affairs of Pakistan's Muslim society.

The talks highlighted the eagerness of the two fraternal peoples to push bilateral cooperation forward. The two sides noted the continued growth of these ties with satisfaction. In this respect, both countries signed an agreement on the creation of a joint ministerial committee, which will hold its first meeting in the first quarter of 1988. A trade accord was also signed.

Representatives of the two countries exchanged opinions on regional and international questions of common concern. Their views on most of these issues were identical. While reviewing developments in the occupied Arab territories, the two nations strongly condemned the arbitrary measures taken by the Zionist forces against innocent Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They voiced their great regret and deep pain over the massacre of unarmed Palestinians. Both countries called on the international community to take all measures necessary to end the ongoing Zionist policy of violence and repression. They emphasized that a just and honorable solution to the Palestinian problem can be attained only when the Zionists withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. These rights include repatriation, self-determination, and the creation of their own independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The two nations stressed that an international conference on the Middle East must be convened at an early date.

Turning to the Iraq-Iran war, the two sides expressed their deep concern and great anxiety over the continuation of the conflict between two neighboring Muslim states, Iraq and Iran, and the threat this poses to international security and stability. They repeated their call for a speedy end to the war and for a just and fair solution acceptable to both parties. They also reaffirmed their support for ICO resolutions designed to achieve this objective and for the efforts of the Islamic Good Offices Committee to reach a peaceful solution.

Both nations have supported attempts by the United Nations to implement Security Council Resolution 598, and expressed their hope that this work will be a success.

The two sides agreed that the current problem in Afghanistan can only be resolved through a dialogue intended to achieve a political solution based on the principles included in ICO resolutions. They welcomed the continued efforts of the UN secretary general and his special representative in the search for a solution to the Afghan problem.

The two presidents gave each other medals from their respective countries. Brother President Mohammad Ziaul Haq awarded Pakistan's highest decoration to his brother president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. For his part, Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih bestowed the Medal of the Republic, the YAR's highest decoration, on his brother president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the members of his delegation thanked the Pakistani Government and people for the reception and hospitality they received. He officially invited his brother president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, to visit the YAR. His excellency accepted the invitation with thanks, and the date of the trip will be fixed later.

'Identical' Views Noted

BK250706 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Pakistan and the YAR have expressed identical views on regional and international issues, including Palestine, the Iran-Iraq war, and Afghanistan. This came in a joint communique released at the end of the 3-day visit to Pakistan by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

Both countries strongly condemned the atrocities and violence committed by the Zionist forces against innocent Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They urged the international community to take all measures necessary to bring about an immediate end to the policy of atrocities and violence continuously

pursued by the Zionists. The two states reaffirmed that a just, honorable, and lasting solution to the Palestinian question will be possible only when the Israeli forces withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the basic rights of the Palestinians are restored. They demanded that an international peace conference be convened as soon as possible to find an answer for the Middle East problem.

Pakistan and the YAR expressed their deep concern and anguish over the continuing Iran-Iraq war, which threatens international peace and stability. They repeated their call for the quickest possible end to the conflict, and the discovery of a mutually acceptable, equitable, and just solution to this problem. They reiterated their support for the relevant ICO resolutions and the efforts to end the Gulf war made by the Islamic Peace Committee and the UN secretary general.

Both countries agreed that the Afghan question can be solved through a negotiated political settlement based on ICO resolutions. On the same subject, they welcomed the continuous efforts of the UN secretary general and his special representative to reach a negotiated political solution of the matter.

The joint communique notes that both sides expressed their deep desire to further promote and strengthen bilateral relations in high-level talks. In a bid to promote this goal, they signed an agreement to establish a joint ministerial commission. They also signed a trade agreement. The first meeting of the joint ministerial commission is expected to be held in the first half of next year.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Operations, Clashes With LTTE Reported

Indian Ships Off Coast

BK261609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that naval and coast guard ships and aircraft have been positioned off the east and southeast coast of Sri Lanka to prevent the entry and transfer of arms to and by the LTTE. He said some boats were spotted early this week by the Navy and three LTTE men were apprehended. A naval helicopter also attacked and destroyed a speed boat off Batticaloa.

The PKF [Peacekeeping Force] seized 2,000 rounds of ammunition and rifles after the arrest of two LTTE men at Chavakachcheri yesterday. The spokesman said that six PKF jawans [soldiers] were killed and eight injured when the LTTE fired mortar shells at a PKF post in Trincomalee yesterday. He said one LTTE member was killed and 27 arrested in the search operations by the PKF in the last 24 hours.

14 LTTE Killed, 120 Captured

BK281129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Indian troops have killed 14 Tamil rebels and caught 120 in Sri Lanka in the last 24 hours, according to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA. The Indian Navy killed 12 rebels and caught 3 after a gun battle with terrorists of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam aboard a boat off eastern Batticaloa. An Indian ship sank another boat in the same area loaded with weapons belonging to the LTTE.

A spokesman was further quoted as saying that the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF], continuing a thrust to disarm LTTE, caught a total of 105 rebels and made what was described as the largest ever haul of arms and ammunition in northern Jaffna Peninsula. One Tamil rebel was also killed in the northern area. One self-styled LTTE captain, Karunahan, died and two others were captured after a clash in Kuddikamam in the north. The IPKF caught some 10 LTTE cadres with rifles with ammunition at Vavuniya in the east.

Only one Indian soldier had been killed in the LTTE mortar attack in Trincomalee on Thursday [24 December] and not six as reported earlier. The IPKF later made another large haul of 69 automatic rifles and machineguns outside Chavakachcheri area. Information about the arms dump was provided by captured LTTE men during questioning.

'Notorious' Terrorists Captured

BK271125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] An armed gang of subversives attacked the police station at Damana in the Amparai district in the early hours of yesterday morning. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the attack was repulsed. No casualties were reported. The gang had attacked the police station with automatic fire at about 0130 yesterday.

The sources also told LANKA PUWATH that the Indian Peacekeeping Forces seized 2,000 rounds of ammunition and two AK-47 rifles when they apprehended the LTTE terrorists at Chavakachcheri. At Velvettiturai on northern coast of the Jaffna Peninsula, seven LTTE cadres, including the two notorious terrorists code named Nandan and Robert, were captured.

18 Killed in Batticaloa

BK271042 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1036 GMT 27 Dec 87

["OANAPool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 27 (LANKA PUWATH)—Eighteen persons were killed and two wounded in a battle which followed LTTE terrorists attacking a group of policemen at the market in Batticaloa town, eastern Sri Lanka about 300 kilometers (190 miles) from Colombo, this morning.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the dead were a policeman shot dead by LTTE terrorists and seventeen civilians reported to have been caught in the crossfire which followed gunning down of the policeman and the wounding of two of his colleagues when they were making purchases of food for the police.

The sources said that following the attack on the group of policeman the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and the police retaliated and fired back at the terrorists. The seventeen civilians were reported to have been caught up in the crossfire.

Official sources further said that the LTTE terrorists had deliberately made the attack in the crowded market in order to have civilians caught up in the crossfire.

Having repulsed the terrorists' attack the IPKF and the police apprehended 50 LTTE terrorist suspects in a cordon and search operation.

More on Batticaloa Clash

BK280510 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Colombo, Dec 28 (AFP)—The Indian High Commission here Monday accused the Sri Lankan police of shooting civilians and setting shops ablaze in reaction to a guerrilla ambush in the east of the country.

Police reinforcements set fire to shops and killed at least 12 civilians after three policemen were gunned down by Tamil rebels at a crowded bazaar in Batticaloa, a high commission spokesman said.

"An Indian Peace Keeping patrol that was nearby cordoned off the area and requested the Sri Lankan police to withdraw. Indian troops are now patrolling the area and the situation is fast returning to normal," the spokesman said.

Sri Lanka's official news agency LANKA PUWATH said civilians were killed in crossfire when police and Indian troops fired at Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters who ambushed the policemen.

The agency said that 50 suspected LTTE men were arrested during a joint police-Indian search operation after the shootout. The LTTE had chosen the market square to attack the policemen to draw fire from them and inflate civilian casualties, the agency reported.

It said one policeman was killed and two were wounded in the ambush. But Indian sources said three policemen died in the LTTE attack.

Doctors at Batticaloa Hospital, the district's main health facility, confirmed that 19 civilians were killed in the incident. Eleven people were being treated for bullet wounds, they said.

Batticaloa residents said fighting erupted when gunmen hiding inside shops fired at police after a suspected LTTE fighter tried to grab a policeman's gun. The gunmen fled in a car, they said.

The LTTE had also launched a simultaneous strike on the Batticaloa police station, they said, but there were no reports of police casualties in that attack.

An LTTE mortar bomb went awry and fell on a house wounding six occupants, they said, adding that firing continued for about three hours.

Officials have said that the Tamil guerrilla campaign for a separate homeland shifted to Eastern Province after the LTTE suffered military setbacks in Jaffna in the north. Indian troops launched a major offensive against the LTTE on October 10 in Jaffna after the rebels rejected a New Delhi-backed peace plan to end the separatist violence and refused to surrender weapons.

More than 340 Indian soldiers and more than 1,200 rebels have since died.

Batticaloa 'Near Standstill'

BK280336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Life in the eastern Sri Lanka town of Batticaloa came to a near standstill this morning after yesterday's violent incident in which 25 civilians were killed. The shocked residents are mainly keeping themselves indoors. There is hardly any vehicular traffic on the road. Shops and other business establishments remained closed.

The 25 civilians in the town were killed in a shoot out by Sri Lankan security forces following the killing of one Sri Lankan policeman by a suspected LTTE man. Residents told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that a number of people of the area around the market places are reported to be missing although the exact number has not yet been known. A number of suspects were taken into custody during search operations after yesterday's incident.

Arms Cache Recovered

BK271616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 25 civilians were killed in a shoot out in eastern Batticaloa town today. The shoot out was sparked off after suspected LTTE members fired on a group of Sri Lankan policemen in the main market area of the town killing one policeman and injuring two. Reports say the shooting lasted 1 hour. Residents told our Colombo correspondent over the telephone that the Sri Lankan security forces opened indiscriminate fire in the area after the policeman was killed. Nineteen bodies have already been brought to the Batticaloa hospital and twenty persons admitted with injuries.

Official sources told our correspondent that the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] was not informed of the attack on the Sri Lankan police party. Police have rounded up a large number of people for interrogation.

Meanwhile, the PKF has recovered the largest ever cache of arms and ammunition from LTTE cadres in the northern Jaffna Peninsula. The cache included a large number of rifles, nearly 12,000 rounds of ammunition, over 400 bombs, 500 grenades, 400 kg of explosives, seven mines and two wireless sets. More than 100 LTTE men have been arrested and one killed in the last 24 hours in the peninsula. The PKF also recovered 69 weapons, mostly machine guns in the Chavakachcheri after the interrogation of some captured LTTE cadres.

In the eastern Batticaloa sector naval ships engaged two boats off the coast. One boat carrying arms was sunk. Twelve LTTE men were killed and three arrested.

Power supply has been restored to all parts of Jaffna town. The spokesman of the Peacekeeping Force told our Jaffna correspondent that supply will now be made available throughout the day. Our correspondent who visited Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Mannar, Kankesanthurai and Palaly reports that agricultural operations are in full swing in northern and eastern provinces. Churches and temples are humming with activity.

2 LTTE Captured; 14 Surrender

BK281509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Two hard-core LTTE men were apprehended today by the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] at Manippai and Tellippalai during the disarming operation. Fourteen LTTE female cadres surrendered to the PKF at Navatkuli. They were later released in the presence of citizen committee members on the assurance that they will neither associate nor indulge in any specific activities.

Meanwhile, bank officials started cash transactions for the first time today in outer areas in the Jaffna Peninsula after 3 years. Our correspondent in Jaffna says that the officials carried cash in the interior areas like Nelliadi and Point Pedro.